

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVI.]

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BIRTHS.

On October 25th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. A. ROSENBERG, a son.
On October 28th, at Shanghai, the wife of J. A. URQUHART, of a daughter.
On October 28th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. J. DELBOURGO, a son.
On October 28th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. N. T. SAUNDERS, a daughter.
On October 29th, at the Austro-Hungarian Consulate-General, Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. E. von HIRSCH, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On October 17th, at Foochow, JAMES HELBLING to BARBARA ABBOT.
On October 26th, at Shanghai, RONALD MACDONALD, to EVELYN LUCY SKINNER.
On October 26th, at Nanking, Dr. EDGERTON HASKELL HART, D.D., to CAROLINE MADDOCK, both of Wuhu.

DEATHS.

On October 28th, at Shanghai, the three months old son of Mr. and Mrs. ARTHUR BARING.
On November 2nd, at Hongkong, ANNA, the beloved wife of Captain H. Ederen, aged 31 years.

AGRADECIMENTO.

Henrique João Melchior de Figueiredo vem por este meio protestar os seus agradecimentos, em quanto o não faz pessoalmente, a todas as pessoas que lhe deram pesames por ocasião do falecimento de sua estremecida esposa, e bem assim a todos que enviaram grinaldas e acompanharam o feretro á ultima jazida.

Hongkong, 6 de Novembro, 1907.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of October 8th arrived, per the s.s. *Prinzess Alice*, on Tuesday, the 5 instant; and the French Mail of October 11th arrived, per the s.s. *Polynésien*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The British Commercial Agency at Vladivostok has been re-opened.

The Chinese Imperial Post Office at Shanghai moved into a new and commodious building on Monday.

There is reported to be a lot of bankruptcy, suicide, and disappearance among the Chinese of Shanghai, owing to excessive gambling in gold and silver exchange.

Russia has informed Japan that she will remit the balance of the bill for the Russian prisoners of war, amounting to Yen 9,000,000, through London within a month.

It is reported that Viceroy Chang Jen-chun of Canton has consented to cancel the Canton-Macao Agreement with the Portuguese, owing to the lapse of the agreement, and that in consequence the Ministry of Posts and Communications will at once issue an official notification on the subject.

A native residing at Tinhawan was killed in his hut on November 4th during the firing practice of the gunners at the Lyeemun Fort. A stray bullet found its way through the side of the hut and struck the unfortunate man, who must have been killed instantly. His body was removed to the mortuary.

Representatives of Chinese in Panama have telegraphed to the Waiwupu complaining that the Panama officials have lately issued certain unjust and oppressive regulations upon Chinese residing and working there. It is requested that the Government for the oppressive regulations be approached by the Waiwupu on the subject.

Two fishermen were prosecuted by Sergeant Sims for cruelty to a dog. The Sergeant informed his Worship that the defendants tied a rope round the animal's neck, hung it over the side of their boat and proceeded to beat it to death with poles. As a rule, when Chinese killed a dog for food, they did so without unnecessary cruelty. The defendants said they were killing the animal to eat, and were doing so in that particular way in order not to lose the blood. The fishermen were ordered to pay a fine of \$5 each.

It is reported that in defence to a joint telegram of ex-Grand Secretary Wang Wen-shao and ex-Governor Lu Yuan-ting, on behalf of the whole population of Chékien province, their Excellencies Yuan Shih-kai, P'u Ting and Chên Pih approached Prince Ching on the subject of repudiating the proposed loan from the British Corporation. In reply the Prince stated that their Majesties had already sanctioned the loan for the construction of the Soochow, Hangchow and Ningpo Railway, and it would, therefore, be impossible to cancel the Imperial Edict on the subject.

There is now apparently no doubt that the Chinese found with his throat cut near the works of the Standard Oil Company at Lai-chikok was murdered. He kept a small store in the vicinity, and it is known that a number of people in the surrounding district owed him money. The only theory at which the police can at present arrive, therefore, is that he was probably murdered by a person in his debt. A closer inspection of the hut in which the tragedy took place revealed the fact that the man had been blinded with pepper before he was attacked, for a plentiful supply of this was found on his face, on his clothes and on the floor.

A telegram from Mukden states that Viceroy Hsü Shih-chang has been authorized to float a foreign loan of Tls. 40,000,000 on condition that it shall be invested chiefly in railways and other productive enterprises. The loan will be raised shortly. The expenditure on the Kirin-Changchun Railway and on the Hsimmintun-Amur Railway (the construction of which is to be begun next March) will be defrayed out of this loan.

The Swatow Correspondent of the N.C. Daily News writes on October 22:—The district half-way between here and Hongkong is in a disturbed state at present. Bad harvests have made the people discontented, and they fall a ready prey to any one offering them a prospect, however nebulous, of an improvement in their worldly affairs. When these promises are backed by something substantial in the way of cash, they are ready for anything. The anarchists, or anti-monarchists who hatch plots in Hongkong are quick to see this, and their agents have been busy lately in the Haifeng prefecture. Money has been distributed, and an active propaganda has been in progress. The District Magistrate lost his head, figuratively speaking, the other day, and precipitated a panic by closing the city gates in consequence of a rumour that the English from Hongkong were about to make an attack upon the place.

On November 4th Constable Lenaghan went to a house in Salt Fish Lane, West Point, in search of gamblers. He found the hiding place of a party, and had rather an unpleasant experience in trying to enter. In a corner of one of the rooms a number of baskets and boxes were stowed, apparently without care. But on examining these carefully the constable found that they formed a room, and after a search he found an entrance just large enough to allow a man to squeeze through. Within he saw a number of gamblers, and decided to enter their abode. When about half way through the opening some Chinese on the outside pulled some of the lower baskets away, and down came the pile on the top of the constable and his quarry. It was about five minutes before he could extricate himself, and then his first thought was of the men he was there to arrest. He succeeded in securing eight, but the keepers made their escape. The players were charged before Mr. C.D. Melbourne at the Police Court yesterday, and fined 2 apiece.

The Japan Chronicle tells a rather amusing story, and one wonders if it could not have been duplicated on occasion in China. A foreigner wanting some visiting cards printed, with his name in English letters on one side, and in Japanese characters on the other, took as a sample a card which he happened to have in his possession. It was the card of a well-known Japanese baron. He explained that he wanted his name on one side in English, and on the other in Japanese "like this," indicating the Baron's card. The printer printed the foreigner's name on one side in English as instructed and the Baron's name in Japanese on the other! One day there was a grand dinner at the Occidental Hotel, Kobe, attended by certain individuals interested in horse racing. The foreigner duly attended this function, and was surprised to find that, on handing in his card, he was regarded with considerable suspicion. There were enquiries, explanations, and apologies, with some amusement, and the innocent imposter now seems likely to be nicknamed "the Baron" by all his acquaintances.

THE C.I.P.O. AGAIN.

(Daily Press, November 2nd.)

China affords an instructive instance of how difficult it is for a nation that has once let go adrift the instinct of self administration to recover its lost ground. Long centuries of delegation of all its powers to a central government has atrophied the consultative faculties of the nation at large; while the fact that it had no neighbours sufficiently advanced in the arts of civilisation to act as a check on its own extravagances insensibly had the effect of lowering the official tone of the whole. One after another the European nations are discovering the weak points of the government, and under pretence of setting things to right are leading up to still further complications. China is sensitive of the fact that affairs are not going properly, and that now and then her neighbours, seeing her weakness, take the opportunity of encroaching; and, having once gained a footing, prepare to make it good as a fulcrum for further interference. China, in fact, has every good ground of complaining of the continual supercession of her "sovereign rights," but she forgets on the other hand that complaints of this nature, without the ability to correct them, are really only acting as an advertisement of her weakness and holding out an invitation to still greater encroachments in the near future. An instructive instance of this phase has recently occurred with regard to the Post Office, to which subject we have referred once already. It is of sufficient moment, however, to warrant the fullest discussion. Except to despatch its own couriers and keep its higher officials informed of the course of affairs as well as of the orders of the Imperial Government, China had not risen to a conception of a postal service; and the vast body of commercial intelligence necessary for carrying on the commerce of the Empire at large, was carried by private institutions, who kept their own couriers and often competed with the government in the diffusion of general news. Under the circumstances the establishment at the various ports of foreign branch post offices for the distribution of letters carried by the various mail services became a matter of absolute necessity. Again on the arrival of letters at the ports where alone the mail steamers called, there was absolutely no regular way by which the mails could be conveyed further to the lesser ports where foreign business was carried on. In the old days the letters were received by the large houses direct from the steamers, but with the growth of the foreign residents, and the fact that many were not directly interested in business and had no agencies, business nor otherwise, with the large mercantile establishments, the distribution of letters became a difficulty. For a time the foreign municipalities at the various ports acted as distributors, but the almost entire absence of co-operation and the want of due supervision and system when each petty municipality became a law to itself soon showed that something better was needed. It was under such conditions that Sir ROBERT HART made the first approaches to an Imperial Post Office to be directly under the control of the central government as represented by the Imperial Maritime Customs. Of the various post offices started under municipal control the only one that exhibited any approach to organisation was that at Shanghai, and so far as it went, it certainly met a want, and was trustworthy; the same could not be said of the others, which were for the most part merely amateurish with no proper staffs. Sir R.

HART accordingly commenced by making overtures to the Shanghai Municipal Council, which meeting with a favourable response, the entire was taken over. On this, as a foundation, he commenced to build up the larger structure, and everything had to be commenced *ab ovo*, as no precedent existed for the state undertaking the carriage of private mails. Few people either connected with the Government, or outside it, looked upon the new departure as containing the germ of success, and this feeling was emphasized when the Inspector-General had the temerity to ask for an initial subsidy from the Customs receipts. Little by little the new service commenced to make its way, being confined in the first instance to the ports open to foreign trade, where there was the staff of the Customs to draw on. Amongst others it excited the jealousy of the German postal service which had been taking advantage of the want of postal conveniences to push its branches into the interior. Of course China was in the first instance herself at fault for not having sooner supplied the requisite accommodation; so soon as China was able to undertake the work herself this necessity ceased, and China had a good cause of complaint that Germany was actually raising a revenue out of carrying mails in her territory. No nation is so jealous of any interference with her own rights, real or pretended, as Germany, and her action in the affair is, to call it by the least opprobrious name, in distinctly bad form. Had the public interest been in any way subserved by Germany's action in the matter, this might have been offered as a *prima facie* excuse, but this can hardly be said. As a fact the foreign residents find their interests in no way assisted, but very much the reverse by the multiplication of Post Offices each interfering with the other, and complicating needlessly postal affairs. It is of no advantage to the residents, for instance of Shanghai, that they have a choice of six or seven post offices to do the work of one, each with its own system of currency. The public interest there would be very much expedited by the establishment of one central office. It is doubtless true that so long as the present system of carrying ocean mails exists, the Powers making China their terminus will need a local agency, but it is quite possible to combine this with the other, to the advantage of the service so far as the public is concerned. Here, however, the Chinese Government, even with the aid of Sir ROBERT HART has been placing itself hopelessly in the wrong. China pays no subsidies of any sort for the carriage of the foreign mails, yet she has been complaining through her mouth-piece, Sir R. HART, that she does not receive full international postage on mails which have not cost her a farthing. If then China have on the one side a good cause of complaint, on the other she is herself to blame for her, (on the face) absurd claims to right of collection on full continental terms on all postages received or dispatched at the ports. In pursuance of this claim she has recently been refusing to carry foreign mails along her railways. In this, at first sight, she is within her ordinary rights as a sovereign Power, but only on the understanding that she shares the cost. As she does not bear any portion of the latter, some allowance is due, and this it is that Sir ROBERT HART seems to have forgotten. The situation is eminently one for compromise. England by the payment of a heavy subsidy is able to bring letters regularly from England to Shanghai at the rate of a penny each; for allowing the letter to be landed on the shore China raises a claim to two pence halfpenny!

This is too absurd to be listened to for a moment by any reasonable man. On the other hand China has almost as well founded a cause of complaint when she finds foreign countries, especially Germany, raising a revenue from postal matter carried through the interior of the country at actually no expense to themselves. China's complaint amount almost to a confession of impotence, but that is hardly an excuse for Germany's action; while on the other side, in attempting to right herself, China has no right to commit a second wrong. This is the moral of the tale, in fact, that two wrongs do not make a right; and never can.

CHINESE AND THE POWERS.

(Daily Press, November 4th.)

In an article in the *Bibliothèque Universelle* in which he dealt with the probable drift of events during the present century, M. TALLICHET, the well known political writer, ventured upon a prognostication as regards foreign relations with China, which has proved singularly correct, and is of special interest at the present time. Referring to the virtual failure of the joint expedition directed by Field Marshall von WALDERSEE, which did not result in anything that could be looked upon as solid, he points out that from this time the ideas of partition of the Chinese, which had then been looked upon as a possible solution of the Chinese question, became very much modified. The facts which that expedition brought to light showed very clearly the dangers which would attend any such partition and the doubtful benefits which would accrue to those who might be concerned in such a step. The writer pertinently asks:—"What would European Powers gain even if a partition could be arrived at amicably as among themselves?" and he adds: "Europe is not capable of digesting so heavy a piece. There is among the Chinese people, a power of passive resistance in face of which foreign conquest is bound to fail. Probably only Japan might be capable of effecting a transformation, because she is Asiatic and has achieved such a transformation in her own country; but between Europeans and Chinese, the abyss is too wide to be filled up by force. In reality what Europe desires is the opening and development of a large market for its industry and commerce. One of the most certain ways of paralysing and annulling this would probably be to seize upon it by main force, thus to induce the Chinese to combine secretly against the intruders by boycotting their wares."

With respect to the last suggested step, the writer overestimates the danger. The instincts of the Chinese for trade are such that, fond as they are of combinations, these do not work so much injury as might in an ordinary way be expected. This is probably to be accounted for partly by some underhand evasion of the boycott by the Chinese themselves; and partly because the boycott is not adhered to for a sufficiently long period. It is not in respect to commerce that combinations would have to be chiefly feared, though considerable inconvenience might, as has often been the case, be experienced from them. The political combinations are the chief difficulty that would have to be faced; and it is scarcely likely that any European power would be able to deal effectively with them. The Chinese are past masters in the formation and conduct of secret societies. The Empire is riddled with such factious combinations in all directions, and they are notoriously the chief obstacle to effective government

of the country. If the Chinese with all their shrewdness and knowledge of their own countrymen are unable to deal with them, the chances of any foreign government, however good, being able to do so are at least very problematical. Our experience in this respect in the Straits Settlements, with the "Ghee-Shing" and "To-Pei Kong" societies is certainly not encouraging, and the difficulty there is, of course, infinitesimal as compared with the extensive secret societies in China itself, whose force might be directed against any foreign conqueror as it is now exerted against the Chinese Government. This difficulty has of late become appreciated to something like its true extent by European nations; but it is by no means the only one which stares them in the face. A partition of China, though it might be effected amicably among foreign nations at the time, would before long become a constant source of friction and jealousy among the foreign nations themselves, and, in this way would lead to a danger of the disturbance of the peace, far more serious than any that is likely to arise through the fault of the Chinese Government, even as it now is. These and other considerations of the same kind have very much reduced the attractiveness of a policy of annexation in China; and the feeling at the present time is adverse to any such idea. There is, of course, the danger that under such circumstances, an opening might be left for Japan to do what European nations are wisely averse to attempting. Under such circumstances, the conventions which have been arrived at with Japan, as to respecting the integrity of China, are manifestly in the interests of peace, at all events for many years to come. The surprise perhaps is that Japan should have been so ready to enter into such understandings, which, if she harboured any ideas of annexations in China, as is so much suspected, are manifestly a restraint upon her. Why the Chinese should have objected to conventions, which are so obviously to her advantage, it is very difficult to understand. The effect of them is to give her every opportunity of effecting the improvements in her internal administration, which she declares herself ready to inaugurate, but they render it necessary for her to make a genuine effort in this direction, and to honestly face the danger to her integrity which has so long existed and which is within and not without. If the internal administration of China is gradually improved she will be able to hold her own and to maintain her position among the nations of the world. The only thing that will prevent this would be another great rising such as the Tai Ping Rebellion which would break up her integrity from within; and of this she is fully aware. This danger can be averted by reasonable reform honestly undertaken. It need not wholly be after a foreign pattern, but it must be so to the extent of removing the just causes of complaint on the part of the people, in the form of arbitrariness, venality and corruption, which have all along been far greater enemies to China and have far more threatened her integrity and independence than any foreign nation ever has been or is at all likely to be in the present day.

The gentry and merchants of Siangtan, Hunan, have subscribed one million taels to enable the proposed Kueiyun to Changsha Railway to connect with Siangtan. The original survey did not include Siangtan in the proposed line and as this would put the trade of the city behind the others, the gentry and merchants promptly subscribed the money to connect their city by rail with the provincial capital.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN CONVENTION.

(Daily Press, November 5th.)

It has been noted before how the cause of peace is being served by the multiplication of *ententes* and conventions. The way all the Powers are now amicably involved would seem to be the surest guarantee against avoidable war. The extremists who pin their faith to the Hague ideal will say that treaties have failed in the past to prevent war, but that is a cheap argument, and applies with equal force to arbitration and the reduction of armaments. It has been pointed out repeatedly that under the most complete arrangements for international law the Powers would have to maintain forces to deal with such of their number as might repudiate, in certain circumstances, their submission to such an international tribunal. In brief, as we said during the opening stages of the last war, international law necessitates an international police force to enforce it. It is not war in general, then, that should be preached against, but the easily avoidable conflicts, such as the one which the irresponsible Press of America would like to precipitate with Japan, or such as the halfpenny ghoul of Fleet Street periodically dream of among the European Powers. These mischief makers ought to be completely foiled by the international arrangements of the last year or two. The latest example is the Anglo-Russian agreement, which may, we trust, for a long time lay the bogie on the frontiers of our Indian Empire, and supplement the Anglo-Japanese Treaty in a very effective way. There will be patriotic Britons who will regret the expense of pulling the Tibetan chestnut out of the fire for China, and who will doubt if British interests in Persia have been sufficiently emphasised by this understanding; but on the whole it is a comfortable settlement of a group of troubles that leaves the Government's hands free to cope with Young India and the KEIR HARDIE crew. There is still the question of British interests in the Persian Gulf, but while the agreement holds good, there seems small likelihood of friction arising on that head. Russia has made an important admission which Sir EDWARD GREY thus notes in a despatch to Sir A. NICOLSON:

The Arrangement respecting Persia is limited to the regions of that country touching the respective frontiers of Great Britain and Russia in Asia, and the Persian Gulf is not part of those regions, and is only partly in Persian territory. It has not therefore been considered appropriate to introduce into the Convention a positive declaration respecting special interests possessed by Great Britain in the Gulf, the result of British action in those waters for more than a hundred years.

His Majesty's Government have reason to believe that this question will not give rise to difficulties between the two Governments should developments arise which make further discussion affecting British interests in the Gulf necessary. For the Russian Government have in the course of the negotiations leading up to the conclusion of this Arrangement explicitly stated that they do not deny the special interests of Great Britain in the Persian Gulf—a statement of which His Majesty's Government have formally taken note.

In order to make it quite clear that the present Arrangement is not intended to affect the position in the Gulf, and does not imply any change of policy respecting it on the part of Great Britain, His Majesty's Government think it desirable to draw attention to previous declarations of British policy, and to reaffirm generally previous statements as to British interests in the Persian Gulf and the importance of maintaining them.

His Majesty's Government will continue to direct all their efforts to the preservation of the *status quo* in the Gulf and the maintenance of

British trade; in doing so, they have no desire to exclude the legitimate trade of any other Power.

Persia's integrity and independence is mutually recognised by the contracting Powers, who delimit the areas adjoining their boundaries in which they will leave each other a free hand with regard to political and commercial concessions, avoiding competition. The *status quo* in Afghanistan is affirmed, with Great Britain's paramount influence amply recognized. Russia resigns all pretensions to meddle there, and Britain promises not to attempt any such intrigues as have been alleged, with some reason, against Russia in the past. There is, moreover, to be the "open door" for trade. In Tibet, with which, as concerning China, we are most particularly interested, both Powers recognize the suzerain rights of China, and agree to let it absolutely alone, entering into no negotiations except through China. This engagement does not exclude the direct relations between British Commercial Agents and the Tibetan authorities provided for in Art. V of the Convention between Great Britain and Tibet of the 7th September, 1904, and confirmed by the Convention between Great Britain and China of the 27th April, 1906; nor does it modify the engagements entered into by Great Britain and China in Article I of the said Convention of 1906. It is clearly understood that Buddhists, subjects of Great Britain or of Russia, may enter into direct relations on strictly religious matters with the DALAI LAMA and the other representatives of Buddhism in Tibet; the Governments of Great Britain and Russia engage, as far as they are concerned, not to allow those relations to infringe the stipulations of the present arrangement. The two Governments respectively engage not to send representatives to Lhasa, and to refrain from obtaining any concessions whatever. In an annex, Great Britain reaffirms the Declaration, signed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India and appended to the ratification of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904, to the effect that the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by British forces shall cease after the payment of three annual instalments of the indemnity of 25,000,000 rupees, provided that the trade marts mentioned in Article II of that Convention have been effectively opened for three years, and that in the meantime the Tibetan authorities have faithfully complied in all respects with the terms of the said Convention of 1904. It is clearly understood that if the occupation of the Chumbi Valley by the British forces has, for any reason, not been terminated at the time anticipated in the above Declaration, the British and Russian Governments will enter upon a friendly exchange of views on this subject. Meanwhile, for three years, and apparently as an extra precaution against trouble, all scientific expeditions into Tibet are to be discouraged.

CHINESE RAILWAY SCHEMES.

(Daily Press, November 6th.)

But a few days ago we spoke of the habit of the Chinese of protesting, with or without reason, against what they considered foreign innovations, without taking thought as to their purpose or incidence. That in many instances they had reason on their side we showed in the instance of the Post Office, though even here, as in so many other instances, the cause really came from their own neglect to take into consideration a glaring want. A more remarkable instance of the ingrained habit of protesting with or

without reason, which becomes in these matters a matter of quite secondary consideration, is afforded in the opposition to the alleged "forced" loan for the purpose of constructing the main railway line from Soochow by way of Hangchow to Ningpo. Now if this opposition were the genuine outcome of national or patriotic feeling we should be bound, however much we dissented from it, to treat it with respect; but its very wildness and the methods adopted to keep it alive demonstrate how little there is of what can be considered genuine about the whole affair. It is, in fact, as the whole of the "Boxer" movement of 1900, simply the artificial product of a small band of malcontents, who exist in China as in every other country under the sun where disaffection is played with and made a pet of and the inciting motive is not so much dislike to the foreigner in person, as the antipathy of the reactionary to change of any sort, especially if likely to be beneficial. Doubtless, as in all movements of the sort, the individuals who permit themselves to be made most prominent and who always appear on the surface of these so-called popular reactions, are not by any means the original instigators; that is a role undertaken by a more dangerous, because concealed, class of recusants who take good care to keep themselves in a safe obscurity. The foolish young men who threaten suicide as a proof of their sincerity are more generally dupes than sinners, and the present instance is only following the ordinary rule of popular agitations. Except in the minds of a few reactionaries who would willingly see China return to the state of semi-barbarism to which she was brought by the corrupt rule of the feeble successors of Kienlung in the first half of the last century, there is a general consensus of native opinion that what the empire most needs is to have its communications, allowed to fall into disorder through misgovernment, put into order; and as the only means of accomplishing this is by making railways, railways themselves are in favour. So much is this the case that the mischief makers amongst the reactionaries find it a hopeless task to inveigh against the railways themselves, so have had to change their plans. It is always an easy task in any homogeneous country to raise an outcry against the foreigner as such, and China is no exception to the rule, and as under existing conditions the people at large have in business matters no confidence in their own governing classes, the reactionaries knowing that the placing of railways in official hands implies their postponement till St. Tibb's eve, they have been skillfully playing upon this antiforeign element. The movement has, in fact, for its object not to induce the people to rally round their own kith and kin in the construction of the main lines, but to put an end to the building of railways altogether. As to what is certain to occur in entrusting their own money in official hands we have a pretty plain object lesson in the Canton-Hankow line. Here, it is true, the Chinese had a good cause of complaint against the original concessionaires. The right to make this most important of the main railway lines had been granted under certain stipulations to the representatives of certain American capitalists; one of these stipulations was that without consent the acquired rights could not be surrendered nor transferred; such clauses occur in every lease, and are in such a transaction practically essential. Ignoring these clauses altogether, the Syndicate after delaying beyond the stipulated period for commencing, without consulting the Chinese Government, made a contract to sell their

concession to the same Russo-Belgian syndicate as had made the line from Hankow to Peking. In addition to this being ultra vires, the Chinese Government had its own reasonable objections to the southern line falling into the same hands, but instead of going in a straightforward way to exercise its rights under the agreement, it encouraged its people in a cry of China for the Chinese, and the cancelling of the contract in obedience to what was practically mob law. Subscriptions were invited from the masses as a patriotic measure, and a sort of inchoate scrip was issued. How much money was raised in this way cannot be correctly ascertained, but the very first action of the managers who worked the affair was to put the money in private hands and appoint their own friends to "manage" it as a semi-official affair. No accounts have been kept nor rendered, and it almost goes without saying that no steps have been taken to apply the money collected to the making of the railway. The subscribers have tried to assert their right to appoint their own directors, but on one pretence or other no progress has been made, and to all appearance the whole of the money has been applied to other purposes; but what does not appear, for according to Chinese practice, an official can never be asked to account for the receipts of his office. So has fared the first attempt of the Chinese to build their own railways. We may for a moment cast a glance at the other side, and see in what respect the Chinese people have lost in having their lines built for them on loan. The first instance of this is the Chili Line, stretching from Peking to Shan-hai-kwan. This has been carried out honestly and cheaply; practically it is managed by the Chinese Government, only the permanent way and the engineering works which remain as security for the advance till it is repaid being under foreign control. That the public are badly served, whether they are English or Chinese, is a matter of notoriety, but beyond such interference as shall secure the keeping up of their security, the English representatives do not appear on the scene. Very much the same may be said of the line from Peking to Hankow where the line is left as much as possible to the Chinese staff, subject only to the necessary supervision to secure the regular payment of interests accrued.

Finally, in the last of the lines, which is not yet completed, that from Shanghai to Nanking, we find every effort made to fill every appointment possible with Chinese. The line having to serve the richest district in the Empire has been undertaken on a liberal scale, and the permanent way and rolling stock are of first class construction, equal in fact to the best lines in England. Having the advantage of home experience, and being as a pioneer line free from the trammels that surround the construction of a line in England, the loading gauge has been made some two feet higher, and considerably more width left between the up and down tracks, and this has enabled the engines and carriages to be both wider and higher than at home. Every engineer who knows how much English railways are hampered in these respects can understand the enormous advantage thus gained in the first instance at little increased capital expenditure. This, however, had by certain mischief-makers been brought up as a complaint against the management, forgetting that the contractors for the line have had to supply the money as well as the construction, and have felt sufficient confidence in the undertaking to justify them in the extra expenses. The board of

management of the line is half Chinese and half English so that each item of expenditure is undertaken with the full knowledge of both, and all items of income and expenditure and all details of traffic come before both. As the line is not yet completed, as a matter of necessity the working of the line is entirely under the control of the English staff, but, of course, when the engineering works are all completed it will gradually pass over to the Chinese staff, as that becomes more practised in the economical working of the railway generally. With this end every means are being taken to establish schools so as to train the younger employees in their various duties, such as station masters, all these even at present being Chinese, engine drivers, signal men, &c. The contract too places a time limit when the loan is to be automatically extinguished, so that, practically as soon as the initiatory stages are past, the Chinese will by degrees come into entire control. How this is hurtful to any patriotic Chinese it is not easy to see. As a fact it would probably be much more advantageous for the Chinese Government and people did the period of apprenticeship last longer; but in order to respect in every way the national desire to pose as untrammelled, everything is being done to render the intermediate period of mixed control as short as possible.

It will from the above be evident how artificial is the parrot like cry of the present agitators, and how foolish the expressed desire to build with Chinese money all Chinese railways. As a fact, even looking at the affair from the narrowest national point of view, China has made a remarkably good bargain in getting her railways made by foreign money with the least possible expenditure of her own capital, and this entirely independent of the fact, as disclosed by the history of the Canton-Hankow line, that every penny of expenditure is known and checked by her own people, instead of being placed in the hands of irresponsible officials over whose expenditure, according to the present system of government finance, no supervision of any sort is possible. That in the end affairs will be reformed,—that at the moment they are being reformed,—is undeniable; but the road of reform is long, and the wants of communications are pressing and immediate, and China, in accepting the aid of the foreigner with the necessary safeguards which have been supplied, has been acting in her own truest interests a wise part.

TRADE MARKS.

(Daily Press, November 7th.)

The interesting communication sent to the press by the Yokohama Board of Trade, and reproduced the other day in our columns, sheds a little more light on the vexed question of trade mark infringements in Japan. Without denying that Japanese businessmen, like businessmen in all other countries, include some rogues in their number, this communication may be taken as showing that the sins of the Japanese in this connection are no blacker than they have been painted. It also shows that the Government, like other Governments, has the best of honest intentions, and that in Japan, as elsewhere, "the law is a lass." The alleged pirates, or at least some of them, appear to have kept within the four corners of the law, and in business circles everywhere that is generally regarded as quite sufficient to maintain a reputation for commercial integrity. Altruism and chivalry are foreign to the European counting-house, just as *bushido* is a stranger to the hong and godown in Japan. The Japanese Patent

Office has announced its willingness to accept particulars for the information of the Bureau of all trade-marks which are still in use, and were in existence and use prior to the 1st July, 1899, when the Trade-mark Law came into force. This is with a view to prevent the fraudulent registration of trade-marks, it being illegal, as the Bureau points out, to register a trade-mark used by another prior to the coming into operation of the law and which still continue in use. This suggests, and will inevitably create the expectation, that whenever the Department is in possession of the knowledge of such prior usage, it will refuse registration of imitations of the trade-marks so known to have been in use. Hitherto, we believe, it has been registering all that were submitted, taking no notice of anything beyond previous registration. If it means to do now what its communication to the Yokohama Board of Trade implies, it is a very handsome concession indeed to the moral rights of foreign trade-mark users in Japan. The late Mr. SILVER HALL, in his "Manual of the Japanese Patent, Trade Marks and Designs Law," published in 1901, quotes the clause referred to by the Patent Bureau, which includes among the trade-marks that cannot be registered "those which are identical with, or similar to, trade-marks used by other persons before the present Law came into operation." Mr. Hall then comments as follows:—

"Apparently this would prevent A from registering a trade-mark similar to a foreign trade-mark previously known and used in Japan as distinguishing goods imported by B; but in several test cases, one of which was carried to the Supreme Court, in which the plaintiff B applied for the cancellation of a trade-mark registered by the defendant A on the ground that he, B, had used it for many years to distinguish goods of the same class which he had been in the habit of importing, and which were extensively known and used in Japan, it has been decided that no such protection against infringement of a trade-mark of this class can be granted, nor can it be recognised in any way, unless it has been actually registered in the Japanese Patent Bureau, and in fact the continued use of such a mark by B renders him liable to prosecution for infringing A's registered trade-mark. As there are many such trade-marks which were known and used in Japan by foreigners before they were entitled to claim registration, these decisions are of considerable importance; and emphasise the necessity of registering a foreign trade-mark before it becomes known and valuable in Japan."

That was the opinion of a gentleman whom the *Japan Chronicle* described as "one of the best-known patent agents in Japan," and read in conjunction with the communication from the Patent Bureau, it does not necessarily seem to suggest that the judges will be obliged to change their attitude. It merely emphasises the importance of the real owner of a trade-mark hastening to register it before anyone else does so. The mischief is that the Japanese merchants seem to have paid more attention to the law than the foreigners, and to have seen its opportunities and possibilities, and made use of them, with the result that many valuable trade-marks have already been registered by persons who had no right or title to them, and, as Mr. HALL says, if the original owners continue to use them, they will be liable to prosecution. All that the Patent Bureau really promises, then, if it be a promise, is to refrain from granting any more registrations under similar circumstances, provided always that they are supplied with the necessary data by the rightful owners of unregistered trade-marks. It would really seem that the owners of such pirated marks in the past have largely their own neglect to blame for what has been done already.

SEDITIONOUS PUBLICATIONS.

(Daily Press, November 8th).

The new Sedition Ordinance at Hongkong was based on an Order in Council that had received the Royal Assent as far back as February 11th, and our readers may remember that we learned nothing of the Order in Council until it was reported as posted at the British Supreme Court at Shanghai on Sept. 5th. We instituted immediate enquiries as to its effect at Hongkong, and were informed that it did not affect us in any way. That there was some misunderstanding at that time was afterwards made apparent by the introduction of the new Ordinance relating to seditious publications, an important clause of which was subsequently amended in precisely the same way and to the same extent that we felt it our duty to recommend and urge upon the Government. We do not anticipate that there will be any explanation as to why the Order in Council should have been lost sight of for so many months, and merely point it out now as a singular circumstance. There is a further curious detail, however. As our readers know, the first prosecution under the new Order was at Seoul, the defendant being Mr. BETHELL of the *Korea Daily News* and its Korean edition. It has been noted that the Order was first made public at Shanghai, where the British Supreme Court for China and Korea is situated, two days after the date of the first offending article in the Seoul Paper. The first article complained of, that is to say, appeared in the issue dated Sept. 3rd, and it was suggested at the time by the particularly well-informed Japanese editor of the *Seoul Press* that the Order in Council was inspired by the supposed requirements in Korea. In that case, and we do not for a moment doubt that the *Korea Daily News* had been conducted in a manner demanding attention, there was less apparent need to hasten to apply the new Order in Council to Hongkong. It does appear that at Hongkong, as at Shanghai, the native press has made itself obnoxious to the Chinese authorities, but it is by no means obvious that there has been sufficient mischief to warrant active intervention. If there was, it must be assumed that the mere passing of the Ordinance has caused the offenders suddenly to amend their ways, as so far there has been no prosecution locally. With the incident reported during the American boycott and the visit of Miss ALICE ROOSEVELT, we cannot think of establishing any connection. That was a matter, not of sedition, but of public decency, and the Governor has all along had power without the new Ordinance to deal with such cases. The charge against the *Korean Daily News* was that of publishing matter calculated to cause a breach of the public peace and to incite the people to rise against the Government. It is a serious charge, but ever since the Japanese occupation of Korea, that journal has ignored the views of the Powers and the exigencies of the situation, and persistently kicked against the pricks in a manner bound ultimately to invite some such intervention as has now taken place. At last it went too far; the new Order in Council suddenly though belatedly was produced; and our Seoul contemporary was found guilty by the British Consular Court at Seoul and ordered to deposit three thousand yen as security against any repetition of the offence, in which case the money would be forfeited and the defendant deported. So far we have little sympathy with our contemporary's troubles. It invited them by its foolish and not

always very honest comments. There is this, however, to be said, that its trial does not seem to have been as formal and fair as it ought to have been. The reports of the case so far have been too meagre for us to write with certainty of the conduct of the trial, but those we have read make the evidence seem inadequate. The evidence of Bishop TURNER reads as if it were quite immaterial, and the chief Japanese official witness spoke of his "impressions" rather than of his knowledge. It would almost seem that the Order in Council was worded with a view to obviating the difficulty of proof, and to allow of the checking of obnoxious publications on the strength of appearances, calculations, and apprehensions. That is, it is not necessary to prove that an article did cause a breach of the peace or incite a rising, but only to persuade the Judge that it *might* have done so. In this case, it is obvious that the Judge has a tremendous responsibility, and we imply no disrespect to the British official who tried the case in Seoul when we say that it would have been more just to take the case to Shanghai, or to have at least the Supreme Judge to try it. In saying this, we have the support of the Order in Council itself. It distinctly says that "jurisdiction under this Article (relating to sedition) shall not be exercised except by the Supreme Court." The clause in the Principal Order in Council, now substituted by the above, was even more emphatic, being to the effect that "an offence against this Article shall not be tried except by the Supreme Court."

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

(Daily Press, November 9th.)

We see in correspondence with the local Chamber of Commerce, which we hope to find space for later, that the Chamber addressed the Colonial Secretary on the subject of the Nanking Viceroy's projected opium monopoly. All shops will have to buy their raw opium from the Viceroy's nominee. If the scheme succeeds, and is as profitable as it promises, other Viceroy's will be sure to copy the example, and the Chamber lodges a protest against such interference with an established foreign trade. The Governor is asked to support the protest, on the ground that the project is illegal and contrary to treaty, Articles V and X of the British Treaty of Nanking 1842 being quoted. The British Merchants in Shanghai combined and refused to supply the monopolist, who thereupon began to buy at Hongkong, where a boycott was less easy to arrange. The Chamber points out that while the new Bureau poses as an anti-opium movement, it is really a monopoly with revenue as its sole object. The Hongkong merchants interested had written not only to the Chamber of Commerce, pointing these things out, but also to the British Consul at Shanghai, and to the Chairman of the China Association at Shanghai. The Chamber of Commerce telegraphed to the British Minister at Peking adding their protest to those already forwarded. The Hongkong Branch of the China Association also agreed to co-operate in the protection of the interests concerned. The protest was forwarded by the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but at the same time His Excellency pointed out, to the Hongkong Chamber, that the persons "directly affected, and upon whom should devolve the task of representing to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking the alleged breach of treaty, are the merchants of Nanking." His Excellency

also suggested that the merchants of Hong-kong should endeavour, in order to protect their own interests, to take steps similar to those taken by the merchants of Shanghai—to combine and refuse to sell to the monopolist. The British Minister at Peking called upon the Waiwupu, pending a diplomatic settlement, to stop the provincial authorities from taking upon themselves to devise such measures as must restrict a legal trade guaranteed by treaty. The Waiwupu sent telegrams to suspend the monopoly, and issued a proclamation.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, November 4th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

MONEY LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

Action was brought by Hung Sham to recover from Lau Kwong the sum of \$105 due from the defendant as guarantor. Mr. R. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing for the defendant.

Mr. Harding informed his Lordship that the plaintiff was a subscriber to two money loan associations, and the defendant was guarantor of those associations. The claim from him was as such guarantor under his acknowledgment in writing.

Plaintiff, in her evidence, stated that the amount of the claim was still due, and that defendant, as head of the associations, had given her a written acknowledgment of it.

Cross-examined—Why were these associations not carried through?—My eyes are bad. Is it not a fact that the head of these two associations was Cheung Lam, the defendant's wife?—I handed the money to the defendant.

The constituents of these associations were women only, were they not?—Men too.

Can you give me a name?—If you look at the book you will see them. How do I know?

Argument followed as to whether the document on which the suit was brought was an acknowledgment or a guarantee and Mr. Kong Sing asked for his Lordship's ruling on the matter.

His Lordship said he was not prepared to answer the question off hand, but he would consider the point.

Mr. Kong Sing stated that he would call witnesses for the defence to prove that the defendant's name was not Cheung Lam. But before advancing that defence he submitted that having regard to the books exhibited, the first association was an illegal company under section 4 of the Companies' Act, as it contained more than 20 names. His other defence, a technical one, was that the paper put in was not a guarantee within the meaning of the Statute of Frauds, therefore the plaintiff could not succeed upon it.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship gave judgement for defendant with costs.

Tuesday, November 5th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

A CLAIM FOR PEARS.

The Man Sang Loong firm sued the Kwong Cheung Sang shop to recover \$185.90, being as to \$114.40 the price of 22 baskets of Tientsin pears, delivery of which was illegally taken by the defendants on September 18th, and as to the remaining sum of \$71.50, amount of the loss sustained by the plaintiffs. Mr. Otto Kong Sing represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the defendants.

His Lordship (to Mr. Kong Sing)—Are you suing for the conversion of these pears?

Mr. Kong Sing—No, I am suing for the recovery of the price. These pears are perishable goods, and my clients made demand for

them, but did not get possession. They were taken from our possession illegally. Proceeding Mr. Kong Sing stated that both plaintiffs and defendants in this action were fruit dealers. On September 18th both purchased from a steward on the steamer *Waichow* a number of pears brought from Tientsin. Forty-five baskets of pears were sold to the defendants, 25 to the plaintiffs and ten baskets to a third party. All the pears were brought ashore on a cargo boat engaged by the defendants, and the boatwoman was instructed to deliver the pears to their respective owners by the person who sold them. The defendants' lot was delivered at Wing Woh Street, also the other ten baskets. Then the boatwoman ran the boat alongside a wharf opposite the Central Market for delivery of the plaintiffs' 25 cases. The plaintiffs were asked to take delivery, forks were sent down, and while they were taking delivery the defendant came along and had the plaintiff arrested, alleging that the 25 baskets of pears were his and that the plaintiff was stealing them. The plaintiff was taken to the Central Police Station, where the Inspector on duty discharged him on hearing his story. Action was then brought against the defendant for false imprisonment, and although judgment was given for the defendant in that action, His Honour Mr. Justice Wise refused costs, holding, as Mr. Harding would probably bring out in cross-examination, that a certain bill of lading for the whole of the pears had been given to the defendant by the person who sold them, and therefore he had a certain amount of right in holding the pears.

After hearing evidence his Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

Wednesday, November 6th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

A BARMAID'S CLAIM.

Action was brought by Mrs. A. M. Rodgers against M. Sternberg of the International Hotel to recover the sum of \$55, balance of wages for the month of October, or \$55, one month's wages, less \$5 received on account in lieu of notice. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) for the defendant.

Mr. Almada stated that this case was fourth on the list, but as he had a witness from H.M.S. *Astraea*, which was proceeding to Saigon in search of the steamer *Taiwan*, he would ask his Lordship to take the evidence of that witness.

His Lordship agreed and.

Stoker William Ancliffe was called. He said he visited the International Hotel on the evening of October 5th, called for a port wine and lemon and sat down at a table. All of a sudden a barmaid called Marie approached him and "started to argue the point." Witness told her to go away. Instead of doing so she jumped off the stool and hit him on the eye with her right hand. He turned round and laughed at her. Then she picked up a soldier's stick and struck him across the right eye with it, cutting the eye. A stoker and a soldier then pulled her away, and Mrs. Sternberg told her to go home. Witness drank his drink and went out.

Cross-examined—Who was the soldier with her?—One of the Middlesex men.

Do you know him?—I don't know his name.

Did you have any conversation with him?—No, I always come ashore by myself.

Are you quarrelsome then?—No.

That was your first drink you had at the International?—Yes.

Did you see any barmaids except the plaintiff?—Two.

Can you account for her striking you?—Yes.

Why?—She came over and started arguing the point, and said she did not want to talk to low stokers and sailors in the Navy. I said—If you don't want to talk go away.

Do you mean to tell me she went over to your table deliberately to quarrel with you?—Yes, sir. I do.

Plaintiff stated that on October 5th, while she was attending to her duties at the hotel the

previous witness came in and had a drink sitting down at a table. She sat near him and a conversation was commenced, during which he referred to an old argument and accused the barmaid of having given him away to the patrol when he was wearing soldier's uniform. Witness denied having done so, and the stoker said "Why didn't you marry the Sergeant in the Middlesex Regiment?" Plaintiff replied:—"I am married to an engineer." The stoker then abused her and accused her of being immoral, using language that plaintiff would not repeat. She struck him with her hand and screamed out that she would not be insulted by sailors. She then picked up a stick which was lying handy and rushed at him again, but a Corporal in the Artillery who was standing near prevented her, and Mrs. Sternberg came up and said:—"Marie, go home." Plaintiff went behind the bar and Mrs. Sternberg followed, saying:—"I am sorry, but you cannot work here any more." Plaintiff went to the foot of the staircase and told the proprietor's wife that she did not intend to leave until she got a month's money in lieu of notice. The corporal came up to her and said:—"Why don't you go home?" Plaintiff replied:—"I won't go until I get my wages." Then the corporal turned to Mrs. Sternberg and asked her why she would not pay plaintiff. She told him it was none of his business. Finally Mrs. Sternberg told the plaintiff to bring her husband down. Plaintiff went away and returned, but as the bar was then full Mrs. Sternberg asked them to call next morning, when she would settle. On the following day Mrs. Sternberg was out when plaintiff called, but later on plaintiff saw her and was again put off, this time till Sunday. On that occasion Mrs. Sternberg remarked, "If your husband says I'm wrong I will pay." On Sunday Mrs. Sternberg offered \$10 but it was refused by plaintiff.

In cross-examination plaintiff said she joined the International Hotel in July.

Did you assault anyone during that month?—No I was assaulted by a German when taking the part of Mrs. Sternberg's little girl, and when he struck me I struck him back.

In August?—I was again insulted by a foreigner who called me a vile name, and I can call witnesses in the police force to prove it. He also threw a glass at my head, knocked me on the floor and kicked me.

Do you quarrel with either of the other barmaids?—Well, when girls are working together there are quarrels.

Did you strike the bar boy?—No. When he was working for me I struck him because he was unfit for work.

Continuing, plaintiff said she secured employment at the Criterion Hotel on October 6th at \$60 per month, and commission on wine sold.

In reply to his Lordship plaintiff said the stoker was put out of the Traveller's Hotel for insulting her.

Mr. Almada submitted that on plaintiff's own evidence she could not succeed as she had secured employment on the following day at similar wages. She could not claim for payment in lieu of notice.

Mr. Grist—We are not claiming that; we are claiming wages for the month of October. She worked five days and is entitled to her salary for the month.

Mr. Almada contended that by her conduct plaintiff was debarred from succeeding.

His Lordship—Do you say it is improper conduct for a woman to strike a man who grossly insults her?

No answer.

Mrs. Sternberg told the Court she had to warn plaintiff during the three months she was in her employ about quarrelling. On October 5th she did not discharge plaintiff; she told her to go home because she was insulting the customers. Witness fainted when plaintiff struck the stoker, and when she recovered she saw the plaintiff behind the bar insulting everyone.

Myrtle Hatley, another barmaid, deposed to hearing Mrs. Sternberg tell the plaintiff to go home. Stoker Ancliffe was a very quiet fellow—sang and laughed only.

Cross-examined—Witness had heard Mrs. Sternberg threaten to discharge Mrs. Rodgers on a previous occasion.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship found the plaintiff was dismissed, and thought that the defendant was justified in dismissing her. Judgment would be for the defendant with costs.

CAPTAIN'S SUIT FOR WAGES.

Captain J. E. Watson sued Messrs. A. C. McMillan and J. M. Donaldson Aitken to recover \$1000, being three months' wages at \$300 and \$100 for board and lodging.

Mr. E. J. Grist appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. A. Holborow (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented Mr. McMillan. The second defendant was not served.

Mr. Grist read the statements of claim and defence. The former set out that plaintiff was a master mariner and in February the defendants, who were mining engineers, engaged him as master mariner at a salary of £30 per month, commencing from March 3rd. Defendants also undertook to provide board and lodging. In the statement of defence Mr. McMillan denied liability. He did not engage plaintiff and was under no liability to provide him with board and lodgings.

Proceeding Mr. Grist said it appeared that the defendants were interested in a coal concession in Borneo, and tried to float a company in Hongkong to work it. They required a master to take charge of a tug boat and go down to this place.

Plaintiff said he was at present employed in the Dook Company, and was some time ago approached by Mr. McMillan and offered a berth in Borneo as master and pilot. On March 3rd he came to an agreement with both defendants to go to Borneo at a salary of £30 per month and a house. Plaintiff then engaged a Chinese engineer and spent some time inspecting launches for defendants. Some time later plaintiff was offered a berth by the Tug and Lighter Company at Tientsin, but could not accept on account of his agreement. In May he was told that the company had failed and Mr. Aitken offered him \$300 in settlement, which plaintiff refused.

A letter was put in, signed by Mr. A. C. McMillan as Attorney for Mr. Aitken, and again in his own capacity. This letter was an agreement to sell one-third of the concession for \$4,000.

Cross-examined—You were out of work when you met Mr. McMillan?—Yes.

Did you ask him to use his influence with Sir Paul Chater to get you a job?—No, I don't need to. His influence with Sir Paul Chater would be very small compared with my own. I have done some good jobs for Sir Paul Chater.

Did not you ask Mr. McMillan to try and get you work?—No, I did not know this thing was on then, and did not see how he could use his influence to get me a job.

When you saw Mr. Aitken you knew that until the Company was formed you could do nothing?—It was to be such a short interval, and I started right away to look at launches.

Did you not think it necessary to have anything in writing?—They offered it to me. I said 'Well, never mind.' I have never had a written agreement in my life; generally my name goes down on the ship's articles—that is good enough for me.

Why did you not ask for your salary at the end of the month?—I had enough to go on with.

You were to be paid monthly?—I expected my money as soon as the Company was formed. Not before?—No.

Mr. F. D. Barretto, a partner in the firm of Barretto and Co., said he knew both defendants, who had negotiated with him for the sale of a coal concession in Borneo, which was in the name of Mr. Aitken, but both said they were interested in it. Mr. McMillan mentioned more than once that a Captain Watson had been engaged to go down to Borneo.

Mr. Grist—At what salary?—I think he said £30. Mr. Holborow—Was the company formed?—No.

Proceedings were taken by you?—No, by Chung Chun-ohi.

He was a party to the same agreement as you were with Mr. Aitken?—Yes.

All the correspondence was carried on with Mr. Aitken?—Yes.

Can you swear that Mr. McMillan said he was a partner?—Yes. He said the partnership agreement was in Deacon, Looker and Deacon's office.

Mr. H. A. Watson, an engineer, stated that Mr. McMillan met himself and Captain Watson in Queen's Road and Mr. McMillan said he had engaged Captain Watson to go down to Borneo.

Mr. Holborow submitted that on the affidavit put in by McMillan it was clear that plaintiff had not been definitely engaged. What happened, he suggested, was that Captain Watson was hard-up and asked Mr. McMillan to try to find him employment and Mr. McMillan took compassion on him, as it were, and knowing that a man would be required if the company was formed, he told him he would engage him then.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiff with costs.

Thursday, November 7th.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

APPLICATIONS TO DISCLAIM.

Re Au Ka-po. The Official Receiver, Mr. J. H. Kemp, stated that the two applications before the Court were for leave to disclaim. One was consented to, but in the other Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) who appeared for the lessors, Messrs. David Sassoon & Co., objected to disclaiming except on terms to which the Official Receiver could not agree.

His Lordship granted the application with respect to the mortgage of the Canton Insurance Co.

The Official Receiver then explained the facts in reference to the second application. The petition, he said, was filed on July 22nd, and on July 23rd the goods on the premises of the Baltimore Hotel were seized by the holder of the bill of sale. On the 26th of the same month an interim receiving order was made, and on the 29th, Mr. Kemp claimed the goods as against the holder of the bill of sale. On the 3rd the landlord threatened to distrain, and the Official Receiver made the usual agreement to hold whatever goods would come to him as against rent to save the expense of distraint. He was not able to get a receiving order until August 27th, and adjudication was not made until October 21st. Not being the trustee he could not order a sale, but he arranged with the holder of the bill of sale. The arrangement was that the money should be held by Mr. Kemp for either of the two parties found to be entitled to it. As the rent would have to be paid they also agreed that it should be paid to Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon for the lessors, and three months rent up to the end of August was paid. Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon knew by September 20th that it was his intention to disclaim, because, immediately he got adjudication he issued a summons which was served on them. The points the Official Receiver wished his Lordship to notice were that he took the earliest opportunity of disclaiming and that before proceeding he was not in possession, either as official receiver or trustee.

Mr. Looker contented that the trustee only ought to be allowed to disclaim on the terms of paying them rent to date since the formal notice to disclaim. He referred his Lordship to section 48 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, subsection 3, and stated that the object of that was for the Court to be satisfied that in the disclaiming of a lease no injustice was done to any person. The Court should see that all equitable rights were preserved whether they belonged to the landlord or third parties. He did not suggest for a moment that there had been any benefit to the trustee in the occupation, but owing to the course the bankruptcy had taken the lessor had been kept out of the premises a much longer time than usual, and he could not regain his possession until the trustee got leave to disclaim. His Lordship would see that the petition was filed on July 22nd, and three months had since elapsed. So far as bankruptcy procedure went there was no reason why the trustee should not have been appointed and application made to disclaim within six weeks, after the receiving order was granted. Having no control over the bankruptcy proceedings they could not take steps to let the property for six weeks after the public

examination had virtually concluded. Owing to the debtor going away, to the vacation, and to the public examination not being concluded it took three and a half months to get a trustee appointed, and owing to circumstances over which they had no control his clients were therefore kept out of this property until the present moment. But it had been laid down that a court ought to do what was right and just irrespective of the law.

His Lordship—Quite so. Is there any money in Court?

Mr. Kemp—There is a little available for a dividend.

His Lordship—Will three months rent swamp it?

Mr. Kemp—Very nearly.

Mr. Looker—We ask for only two months rent. We, as lessors, come, to a certain extent, before the creditors.

His Lordship—Have you ever tried to let the property?

Mr. Looker—We have been making inquiries, but are unable to conclude anything definitely. Because there were causes over which we had no control we ought not to be put to the loss of two months' rent. As a matter of fact the bankrupt is still liable in respect of the case, and we can take no steps whatever. It is only equitable that the disclaimer should now be given on some terms as to rent.

His Lordship—You couldn't prove for that rent?

Mr. Looker—Yes, we can. The rent is \$400 a month; taxes for the quarter come to \$15; our security is \$2000, and the lease has got another year to run. We must unavoidably suffer a large loss in respect of the lease.

His Lordship—You can let the place again!

Mr. Looker—It is difficult to find a tenant. We may not be able to let it again for the same rent.

His Lordship—I think you are entitled to something, but the Court has got to act with regard to the justice of the case of all parties.

Mr. Kemp—The landlord may suffer because the bankrupt has absconded, but why should he get an advantage over the other creditors?

Mr. Looker—The point is that the order should have been obtained sometime ago.

Mr. Kemp—A receiving order was applied for in the debtor's absence, and your Lordship refused it.

His Lordship intimated that he would give his decision on Thursday. Meantime the lessors could go on looking for another tenant.

ADJUDICATION GRANTED.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) applied for the adjudication of the Tang On firm. He understood a warrant was issued for the arrest of the managing partner of the debtor firm, but he did not think that that man had been found.

His Lordship (to the Official Receiver)—Is all in order?

Mr. Kemp—It does not much matter whether adjudication is granted or not. There are no more assets and the partner cannot be found.

His Lordship granted the application.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING JUDICIAL JUDGE).

WAS THE CONTRACT PAID FOR?

Action was brought by Li Sin against Teang Kwong-leung to recover the sum of \$650. Plaintiff was represented by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Almada and Smith), and Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Almada stated that the claim was for work done on a seawall at the Hunghom Docks. The other side did not dispute the amount of the claim, nor that the work was done, but said it had been paid for.

His Lordship—The whole sum?

Mr. Kong Sing—Yes, my Lord. Everything. Plaintiff was called and said the defendant engaged him to do masonry work on the seawall at an agreed price of \$950, of which \$300 only had been paid.

Cross-examined—He knew a man named Ng In-ting, who was the principal contractor for the seawall. Witness was introduced to him by the defendant, and agreed to do certain work for \$1000, and pay a commission of \$50 to the de-

defendant for obtaining him the contract. With the exception of the \$300, however, he had not received any payments on account.

Defendant told the Court that he introduced the plaintiff to Ng In-ting, and signed the contract because Ng In-ting said he did not know the plaintiff. Witness had received certain monies from the principal contractor and had paid them to plaintiff.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship allowed judgment and costs for the defendant.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a Monthly Meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, Hongkong, on Monday, 21st October, 1907, at 4 p.m. Present:—Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. A. G. Wood (Vice-Chairman), Hon. Mr. Henry Keswick, Messrs. A. Haupt, D. R. Law, G. Medhurst, H. E. Tomkins and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

PRIVATE MOORING BUOYS IN THE HARBOUR.

The following Correspondence was read:—
Colonial Secretary's Office,
6th August, 1907.

SIR,—I am directed to bring to the notice of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce the following facts:

(1) The greater part of the available space in the Harbour is now taken up by private mooring buoys, of which 43 are now laid. Of these, more than half are always unoccupied, and as no vessel can anchor in their vicinity, this means that more than half the Harbour is constantly alienated from its legitimate use, and the out-of-the-way localities are consequently overcrowded.

This condition has led to complaints on the part of owners, or their representatives, of vessels which have no private moorings.

(2) Various methods of dealing with this state of things have been suggested, but the obvious one of berthing vessels, belonging to owners who have no private moorings, at the unoccupied buoys, is that which commends itself to the Government as the best solution. It is therefore proposed to do so for the future, having due regard, however, to the prior right of owners of private moorings to the use of those moorings.

(3) In order that such rights shall be duly maintained, it is suggested that the owners should notify the Harbour Master on any of their buoys becoming vacant, when they expect the arrival of another of their vessels to occupy it. The Harbour Master will then make arrangements for the buoy in question to be ready for such vessel, on arrival.

(4) In order to give effect to the above it is proposed to amend Table O (a) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance in accordance with the enclosed draft rule. The fees would be collected by the lessees of the private moorings.

(5) I am to add that if your Committee desires to make any remarks on the above proposals, the Government will be glad to receive them at your early convenience.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd. F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

Rule made by the Governor in Council under Section 28 of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1889.

1. Table O (a) in the Schedule to the Ordinance is hereby amended by the addition of the following rule:—

(5) The fee payable by the master of any ship using by the direction of the Harbour Master any moorings and buoys not the property of the owner of such ship for the use of such moorings and buoys shall be at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per net registered ton per day with a minimum charge per day of \$5.00.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
5th September 1907.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th ultimo (No. 65221 1905) relating to the question of permanent moorings in

the Harbour and am directed by my Committee to reply in detail to the various questions raised in your letter under reply as follows:—

With regard to Section 1 of your letter under reply the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce accept the statement contained in the first paragraph of this section as correct and, without having verified the statement, presume that there are 43 private mooring buoys in the Harbour.

The next paragraph reading "of these more than half are always unoccupied and as no vessel can anchor in their vicinity this means that more than half the harbour is constantly alienated from its legitimate use and the out-of-the-way localities are consequently overcrowded" appears to the Committee to be such an astonishing statement that in support of it some proof should have been brought forward.

I would therefore venture to ask that the return which must exist to justify such a statement, and on which presumably it has been founded, be placed before the Chamber of Commerce in order that the question may again be fully considered.

The Committee of the Chamber would further request that they be supplied with the names of owners, or their representatives, who have complained as to their inability to secure the use of moorings when required by their steamers, and would suggest that a return be furnished of these agents and the occasions on which those complaints have been made.

If this is done, it will then no doubt be possible for this committee by making enquiries among the owners of permanent moorings to ascertain whether on the dates given moorings were available which might have been placed at the disposal of the complainants.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce includes several representatives of leading Shipping Companies and their experience is that it is of quite rare occurrence for them to receive any request from Agents of other Lines for the use of their moorings.

It should be needless to add that were such request received and the owners of the moorings were not in need of them for their own business, they would be only too glad to place the moorings at the disposal of those asking for them.

It must be remembered that there are a certain number of vessels, chiefly engaged in the Pacific trade, which, owing to their great length and weight, cannot make use of any of the fixed buoys and have consequently to moor in the Western and North Western section of the Harbour; while further there are a number of vessels of all sizes which find it more convenient for the purposes of landing or shipping cargo to anchor in the outlying parts of the harbour where they are nearer to the godowns to which and from which their cargoes are handled. It therefore follows that many steamers and the consignees of their cargoes would be greatly inconvenienced if ordered to discharge at a particular buoy or point in the harbour, e.g. Coal steamers to West Point and Rice Steamers to East Point would be *reductio ad absurdum*. These trades are established in certain parts of the City and steamers are naturally anchored or moored in the most convenient situation contiguous to their shore facilities. Besides, if the Harbour Authorities are to have the power to order steamers here, there and everywhere about the harbour without consideration to the foregoing it will result in a heavy increase to the cost of boat-hire. Again, suppose a steamer is moored to a buoy under orders from the Harbour Master, and before finishing discharge has to be shifted because the owner of the buoy requires it for one of his own vessels, this will mean delay in discharge and extra cost either to get up steam to shift, or the hire of a tug to do the needful.

On the other hand there are great numbers of vessels of large tonnage, both mail steamers and others, which are constantly passing through Hongkong. These do not as a rule make Hongkong their terminus and frequently only remain here a few hours, but it is for this very reason that it is all the more necessary they should be sure in advance of a place to go to where their work can be carried out expeditiously and it was this necessity which gave rise to the system of private moorings.

Telegraphic communication is so widely established that a steamer's departure is invariably telegraphed from the last port of call and the Agents are thus informed at the least some 48 hours before her arrival here. This enables any one who understands his business to make arrangements in ample time for the berthing of his steamer prior to her arrival, should he desire to place her in any particular part of the harbour, and to find out whether a permanent mooring belonging to another Company will be available during the time his vessel is in port.

It is quite true that for several days at a time certain moorings in the centre of the harbour may be vacant, but these are required by vessels in special trades which in any case, though not mail steamers, run almost with the regularity of such a service and whose quick despatch is largely due to the fact that it is well known to the Consignees and Shippers also to the Commander in advance that the steamer moors to a certain buoy, the position of which they are all well acquainted with and can the more readily utilize to the best advantage and make fast to immediately on arrival. This has only to be compared with the state of affairs that would ensue if they had to go searching all over the Harbour for their requirements to convince the Government that their propositions are unwise in the best interests of trade.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce are quite ready to admit that unoccupied buoys, if not required by their owners, should be placed at the disposal of those who have no private moorings, provided that this does not in any way interfere with their own business.

With regard to the suggestions contained in the third paragraph of your letter the Committee absolutely dissent from the proposal which, in their opinion, will only lead to great confusion and difficulty in carrying out the shipping business in this Harbour.

The Committee of the Chamber have yet to be satisfied that there is any real cause for complaint as to the existing state of affairs, and in the absence of such proof consider that the proposal, while entailing a great deal of extra work on the Harbour Department and on the moorings' owners, will at the same time introduce a very serious factor of uncertainty into the movements of vessels arriving here which cannot but result in heavy loss to steamer and cargo owners and may result at times in serious accidents.

It is doubtless within your knowledge that this question has been mooted on more than one occasion between the officials in the Harbour Office, and it is understood that the present Harbour Master has desired this radical change for some years past, but his two predecessors, under whom he served, were not persuaded that his views were correct in the best interests of the port. It would therefore seem natural to conclude that the former heads of the Harbour Department and the Shipping Community cannot be mistaken and the present Harbour Master right in his policy. The Committee of the Chamber therefore urge the Government to leave well alone.

The Committee altogether oppose the proposed alteration in Table O of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance and trust that after full consideration of their arguments His Excellency the Governor will not sanction a change which, in their opinion, cannot but seriously handicap the shipping trade of the Port.—I have etc.,

(Sgd.) A. R. Lowe,
Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
16th September, 1907.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to inform you that the question of making leased moorings in the Harbour available to vessels other than those of the lessees will receive further and very careful consideration before any action is decided on.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONVENTION.

The following letter was received from the Government:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
9th August, 1907.

SIR,—Referring to previous correspondence, I am directed to forward for the information of your Chamber a copy of a Despatch addressed by Sir Edward Grey to His Majesty's Minister at Brussels on the subject of the adhesion of His Majesty's Government to the International Sugar Convention of the 5th March, 1902.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce.

Copy. Despatch to His Majesty's Minister at Brussels respecting the International Sugar Convention of 1902.

SIR EDWARD GREY TO SIR A. HARDINGE,
Foreign Office,
June 1, 1907.

SIR,—His Majesty's Government have had under consideration the question of the steps it will be necessary for them to take with regard to the participation of this country in the Sugar Convention when the date arrives on which it will be possible for any of the Contracting States to give a year's notice to retire from the Convention under the provision of Article X of that Instrument. In considering this matter, they have naturally felt themselves bound to give the greatest weight to the interests of consumers and producers in the United Kingdom, and the British Colonies, but, subject to this paramount consideration, they have desired to give proper weight to the circumstances and possible wishes of the other Contracting States.

His Majesty's Government have come to the definite conclusion that the limitation of the sources from which sugar may enter the United Kingdom, whether by prohibition or by the imposition of countervailing duties, is inconsistent with their policy, and incompatible with the interests of British consumers and sugar using manufacturers, and that consequently it will be impossible for them to continue to give effect to the provision of the Convention requiring them to penalize sugars declared by the permanent commission to be bounty-fed.

At the same time His Majesty's Government have no desire that there should be a revival of sugar bounties or of sugar trusts or cartels, dependent on the existence of high protective tariffs, which are now prohibited under the Convention. Nor is there any desire or intention on their own part that any bounties on the production or exportation of sugar shall be given in the United Kingdom or in the Sugar Exportation Crown Colonies or that any preference shall be given to Cane as against Beet sugar, or to Colonial sugars as against the sugars of the Contracting States on importation into the United Kingdom or the Crown Colonies. The President of the Permanent Sugar Commission at Brussels, having very courteously tendered to the British Delegates the good office of the Belgian Government in regard to any discussions which might take place concerning the termination or prolongation of the Convention, I have thought it desirable to request you without loss of time to bring the foregoing considerations to the notice of the Belgian Government, with a view to their communication to the Governments of the Contracting States.

Should these Governments come to the conclusion that the wishes and intentions of His Majesty's Government, as indicated above, can only be realised by the complete withdrawal of this country from the Convention, His Majesty's Government will be prepared to give the necessary notice of the first possible date.

It is, however, possible that in the special circumstances of the case, the other contracting States might judge it to be preferable to accord to the United Kingdom, by a Supplementary Protocol, a special exemption from the obligation to enforce the penal provisions of the Convention. They might be the more disposed to take this course inasmuch as such an exemption would be unlikely, at all events, for a considerable period to have any material effect of a prejudicial character upon the export trade of sugar from any of the Contracting States.

You should point out that it has already been found that the special circumstances of a particular contracting State make it desirable that it should be exempted from certain stipulations of the Convention. Thus, to Italy, to Sweden and Switzerland there have been accorded special exemptions from the stipulations of the Convention that were not appropriate to the conditions of the trade of those countries.

In the event of the Contracting States agreeing to take the course indicated above, His Majesty's Government would be prepared to abstain for the present from giving the notice of withdrawal which they would otherwise feel it their duty to give on the 1st September next.

Should the Belgian Government be willing to exert their good offices in this behalf, I have to point out that, in view of the meeting of the Commission fixed to take place on the 6th instant, it would be desirable that communications should be addressed to the Contracting States as soon as possible.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
26th September, 1907.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo (No. 9936/1906) enclosing for the information of the Committee, a despatch addressed by Sir Edward Grey to His Majesty's Minister at Brussels on the subject of the adhesion of His Majesty's Government to the International Sugar Convention of 5th March, 1902.

The Committee of this Chamber desire to convey their thanks to the Government for kindly placing this despatch before them.

I have &c.,
(Sgd.) EDBERT A. HEWETT,
Chairman.

The Honourable The Colonial Secretary.

QUARANTINE IMPOSED ON SHANGHAI BY HONGKONG.

Shanghai Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, 6th September, 1907.

The Secretary,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce
Hongkong.

DEAR SIR,—My Committee learn through H. B. M.'s Consul that the Hongkong Government has enforced quarantine against Shanghai owing to the prevalence of cholera.

I am directed to ask you, on behalf of this Chamber, to protest against this imposition, and to point out that the action of the Hongkong Government seems premature owing to the endemic nature of the disease.

The number of cases reported to the Health Officer is as follows:—

184 cases	during the week ending 18th August.
156 cases	do. do. 25th August.
144 cases	do. do. 1st Sept.

this, out of a population of some 510,000 Chinese and 13,700 Non-Chinese.

The Health Officer in his report for the month of August points out that the outbreak was chiefly among the poorer classes of the population and specially marked among the Komo people in the Li Honkew district. These people living on the poorest food are particularly noticeable as the occupants of beggar boats and reed hovels beyond the boundary of the Settlement. It is probable that cholera is endemic in these places and only requires the necessary conditions of heat and moisture to produce an outbreak of the disease.

As mentioned above, the outbreak was chiefly among the poorer classes who are beyond the Settlement limits; it would therefore seem highly improbable that they would be among the travelling public going South.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) J. D. CANNING,
Secretary.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
27th September, 1907.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 6th instant protesting against the imposition of quarantine against Shanghai by the Hongkong Government on the ground that cholera is reported to be prevalent at your Port.

The Committee of this Chamber was glad to receive your letter as it supported a protest already made by the Chairman against this quarantine being imposed, and have forwarded

a copy of your letter to the Hongkong Government.

I have the honour to be, &c.,
(Sgd.) EDBERT A. HEWETT,
Chairman.

The Secretary, Shanghai Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,
27th September, 1907.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce has written to this Chamber protesting against the imposition of quarantine against Shanghai on account of the alleged prevalence of cholera at the latter port.

I now enclose copy of the Shanghai letter for the information of His Excellency and would beg to point out that the reasons brought forward by the Shanghai Chamber in support of their arguments against the action of the Government in declaring Shanghai an infected port appear to this Committee as reasonable and worthy of consideration.

I have now the honour to request that this correspondence be laid before His Excellency who I trust on further consideration of the question will in the interests of trade agree to withdraw the regulations now imposed against steamers arriving from Shanghai.

I have &c.,
(Sgd.) EDBERT A. HEWETT, Chairman.
The Honourable The Colonial Secretary.

Shanghai Chamber of Commerce,
Shanghai, October 10th 1907.

The Chairman,
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong.

SIR,—I am instructed by my Committee to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 27th ultimo, and to convey their best thanks for forwarding copy of our letter to the Hongkong Government.

The total number of deaths from cholera since I wrote last has been as follows:—

For week ending 8th September	 50
Do. 15th	 41
Do. 22nd	 20
Do. 29th	 7
Do. 6th October	 Nil

From the above figures it would appear that the disease is again stamped out, and I have to ask you to be good enough to further protest against the action of the Hongkong Government in imposing quarantine restrictions against this Port.

Again thanking you for your support in this matter, I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) J. D. CANNING,
Secretary.

[The remainder of the correspondence relates to the opium business, and is unavoidably held over.]

THE OPIUM MONOPOLY CORRESPONDENCE.

Hongkong,
3rd September, 1907.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that the British firms engaged in the opium trade in this Colony have addressed a letter to the Committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce asking for assistance in this matter very closely affecting their business.

It appears that the Viceroy of Nanking with a view to establishing a monopoly in the opium business in this capital has ordered that all opium shops be closed and converted into "prepared opium" shops which are to be conducted under licences issued by the Viceroy.

The sale of raw opium is to be placed in the hands of an individual or syndicate who will hold a monopoly from the Viceroy and from whom alone the prepared opium shops will be allowed to purchase their opium. The result of this will be that all existing raw opium establishments will be forced to suspend business and the whole trade will be converted into a close Government monopoly. The intention is to inaugurate the system in Nanking but it is understood that once the monopoly had been started it will be extended to other parts of the province.

This new departure has avowedly been taken by the Viceroy of Nanking for the purpose of raising revenue and we have reason to believe that the experiment is being watched with interest by other Provincial Authorities who will not be slow to adopt the same course, if it be successfully carried out.

The Committee of this Chamber has on more than one occasion in the past been obliged to protest attempts on the part of the Chinese authorities in the neighbouring provinces to interfere with the foreign opium trade, and believe that, unless the Nanking Viceroy is compelled to abandon his proposed creation of a monopoly, similar causes for complaint will shortly arise in the provinces of the Two Kwang.

I have, therefore, the honour to request that His Excellency the Governor will be good enough to give this matter his consideration and trust that he will support the Chamber in protesting against this proposed infringement of our treaty rights and request the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to represent the matter in this light to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In support of our contention that the establishment of the proposed monopoly is contrary to treaty, I would beg to refer to the following:—Article V of the British Treaty of Nanking 1842:—

"The Government of China having compelled the British Merchant trading at Canton to deal exclusively with certain Chinese Merchants, called Hong Merchants (or Co-Hong), who had been licensed by the Chinese Government for this purpose, the Emperor of China agrees to abolish that practice in future at all ports where British Merchants may reside, and to permit them to carry on their mercantile transactions with whatever persons they please; and His Imperial Majesty further agrees to pay to the British Government the sum of three millions of dollars, on account of debts due to British subjects by some of the said Hong Merchants, or Co-Hong, who have become insolvent, and who owe very large sums of money to subjects of Her Britannic Majesty."

Article X. of the same Treaty:—

"His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees to establish at all the ports which are by Article II of this Treaty, to be thrown open for the resort of British Merchants, a fair and regular tariff of export and import customs and other dues, which tariff shall be publicly notified and promulgated for general information; and the Emperor further engages that, when British merchandise shall have once paid at any of the said ports the regulated customs and dues, agreeable of the tariff to be hereafter fixed, such merchandise may by conveyed by Chinese Merchants to any province or city in the interior of the empire of China, on paying a further amount as transit duties, which shall not exceed—per cent. on the tariff value of such goods."

Article XIV of the French Treaty of Tientsin of 1858:—

"Aucune société de commerce privilégiée ne pourra désormais s'établir en Chine, et il en sera de même de toute coalition organisée dans le but d'exercer une monopole sur le commerce. En cas de contravention au présent Article, les autorités chinoises, sur les représentations du consul ou de l'agent consulaire, aviseront aux moyens de dissoudre de semblables associations dont elles s'efforceront d'ailleurs de prévenir l'existence par des prohibitions préalables, afin d'écarter tout ce qui pourrait porter atteinte à la libre concurrence."

There can be no question but that in view of the above the action of the Nanking Viceroy is illegal and contrary to treaty.

The British firms in Shanghai, in order to protect their interests have agreed not to sell opium to the Government monopolists, and in this way they have the support of the Chinese Opium Guild which is controlled by natives of Swatow. The monopolist, therefore, finding himself unable to procure opium with which to crush the business of the old established firms is now purchasing opium in Hongkong, where owing to the different conditions which obtain as regards the guilds, it is impossible for the dealers to come to an agreement to prevent the opium being secured for Nanking.

We understand that strong protests against the action of the Viceroy have already been sent to Peking but as the representations on the subject made by the British Minister to the Waiwupu have as yet not had the desired effect, it appears to the Committee of this Chamber that this Colony should also join in protesting against so flagrant a violation of the treaties.

For the information of His Excellency I beg to enclose.

1. Copy of letter received from the British firms in Hongkong, dated 27th August.

2. Copy of letter addressed to H. B. M. Consul General at Shanghai by the foreign opium dealers at that port, dated 17th June.

3. Copy of letter addressed to the Chairman of the China Association at Shanghai by the same firms dated 11th July.

4. Copy of letter addressed to H. B. M. Consul General at Shanghai by the opium firms, dated 2nd August.

5. 2 extracts from "Sin Wan Pao".

6. Translation of a letter received by the foreign opium firms at Shanghai from the Opium Guild.

7. Translation of an Official despatch published in the "South China Journal" of the Viceroy of Liang Kiang re, the erection of an Opium Monopoly Office.

Since writing the above the translation of a proclamation issued by the officers in charge of the so called Kiang Nan Anti-Opium and Government Monopoly Bureau has been received, copy of which is enclosed (No. 8).

Although the Bureau attempts to shield itself under the title of "Anti-opium" and the proclamation commences with reference to the Decrees which have been promulgated prohibiting the sale of the drug, it is very evident that the establishment of a Government Monopoly with its accompanying revenue is the main factor.

The proclamation explains the situation very clearly. All dealers are now obliged to take a license and must sell their opium exclusively to the Bureau.

After stating that the number of licences will be limited the following significant paragraph appears: "Those existing dealers in opium who wish to change their trade are at liberty to do so."

The public opium shops and divans being closed, the sale of opium is to be farmed out to those who have sufficient capital to engage in the business or, by providing guarantees, can obtain licences to act as sub-agents for the Bureau.

The value of the movement as an anti-opium crusade is shown by the fact that for the population of Nanking no less than two hundred prepared Opium establishments are to be started 120 in the city itself and 80 in the suburbs.

The question of interference with the opium trade by high Chinese officials having again been raised, the Committee considers this a fitting opportunity for laying before His Excellency certain points in relation to the proposed gradual suppression of the opium business which appear to them worthy of note.

It is not easy to correctly estimate the total amount of opium consumed in China, but as is well known, the habit is universal and extends throughout the whole of the Empire.

Roughly it may be estimated that the foreign opium imported into China represents about a tenth of the total consumption, but of late years while the area under poppy cultivation in China has steadily increased, the importation of Indian and Persian opium has declined. This change is at all events in part due to the fact that the production of opium is one of the most remunerative crops in the whole Empire, while owing to the gradual improvement in the quality of the native drug, this is gradually replacing the more expensive imported article.

Without going into the question as to whether it is wise, even if possible, to entirely suppress the use of the drug, it will be perhaps as well to remark that all native races have some sort of stimulant or drug, the use of which, so long as it is not abused, cannot be objected to, except by a few extreme enthusiasts.

The total suppression of the use of opium in China if carried in effect may bring a still worse evil upon the country and this has already been foreshadowed by the increased use of so called "anti-opium pills and morphine, the use of the latter, by hypodermic injection, being on the increase, particularly in the neighbourhood of the treaty ports, to an alarming extent.

While admitting that the British Government should do all in its power to assist the Imperial Government in any serious attempt which may be made to curtail and ultimately perhaps suppress the use of opium, it appears

to this Committee desirable to point out at this stage the risk which we run of having a valuable section of British trade destroyed solely for the benefit of native competition.

As is well known the local officials are all opposed to the importation of foreign opium not only is the import duty, but also the full likin, collected at the port of entry, and being remitted to Peking by the Imperial Maritime Customs all chance of undue profit therefrom is lost to the Provincial Authorities who are what is to them an untaxed article passing their barriers and competing with their own opium.

The cultivation of native opium is largely in the hands of high Chinese Officials and is of course, a source of enormous revenue to them and to all through whose districts it passes or in which it is consumed.

It is quite probable that several of the leading officials in the Empire are quite sincere in their wish to check the production and consumption of opium in which no doubt they are being, to a certain extent, supported by what may be described as a popular movement but though edicts to this effect may be issued, it is quite another matter to carry them into effect, particularly in the more distant parts of the Empire and it is inconceivable that within so short a space of time as ten years the whole cultivation of the poppy can be put an end to.

Large districts in many of the provinces and countless thousands of Chinese of all classes are dependent upon this opium industry for a living and too sudden a change, if they are forced to stop the production, or transportation, of opium can only result in failure of the movement or rebellion.

The point therefore that the Committee would wish to impress upon His Excellency is that no steps should be taken by His Majesty's Government to curtail the foreign opium trade until there is ample evidence that a proportionate reduction is being made in the production of the native drug.

The Committee consider that, as matters now stand, there is no guarantee that the Provincial Authorities as a whole seriously intend to suppress the opium smoking but are merely taking advantage of the present movement to further their own personal ends and increase their own revenue at the expense of a very valuable section of British trade.

For the information of His Excellency I beg to enclose copy of a telegram which is being sent through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to His Majesty's Minister at Peking to whom a copy of this letter will also be forwarded.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) EDBERT A. HEWETT
Chairman.

The Honourable F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary,
Hongkong.

Hongkong 27th August, 1907.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT,
Chairman,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
SIR—We have the honour to bring to your attention the following copies of correspondence in connection with the intention of the Viceroy at Nanking to grant a monopoly of the Opium trade in Nanking.

1. Copy of letter addressed to H.B.M.'s Consul General at Shanghai by the foreign opium dealers there dated 27th June.

2. Copy of letter addressed to the Chairman of the China Association dated 11th July.

3. Copy of letter addressed to H.B.M.'s Consul General, Shanghai, dated 2nd August.

4. Extracts from "Sin Wan Pao".

5. Translation of a letter addressed to importers by the Swatow Opium Guild in Shanghai.

6. Translation of an Official despatch published in the "South China Journal" of the Viceroy of Liang re the erection of an Opium Monopoly Office.

In connection with the above, which will give you full information on the matter, we beg to inform you that an emissary of the Viceroy of Nanking is now in the Colony and has actually purchased Opium for the Bureau.

We understand that the Chinese Authorities in the other provinces are closely watching the course of events at Nanking with a view, if successful, of forming monopolies in the other centres of the opium trade also.

We would therefore request you to give this important question prompt attention and lay the matter before the Government or take such other steps as may appear advisable to your Committee.—We have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servants,

DAVID SASSOON & Co., LD,
H. M. H. NEMAZEK,
PHIROZ HA B. PETIT & Co.

Shanghai 27th June 1907.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to bring to your notice the following:—

Some of the Chinese Opium dealers here have received information from their constituents in Nanking that the Viceroy there intends granting the monopoly of the Opium trade in Nanking to a few dealers, who only will be allowed to import Opium there. So far no official notification has been issued, but as there is every probability of its coming into force at any moment, and subsequently a similar monopoly is intended to be given here and elsewhere, we think it advisable to lay the matter before you so that immediate steps may be taken to stop its being carried into effect. Such monopolies would prevent other dealers from participating in the Opium trade, thus destroying the healthy competition and thereby crippling the business and causing heavy losses to importers who will be at the mercy of a few who hold the monopolies, as regards prices etc.

It would also be greatly prejudicial to the interest of the Indian Government if such a scheme is permitted to be enforced specially in the present unsettled and unsatisfactory state of the Opium trade owing to the action of the Chinese Government in closing up the public smoking dens, and importers, in view of the further uncertainty of demand from those who would hold the monopoly, would curtail importation, which would mean a material reduction of their purchases from the Government of India's monthly sales.

We therefore beg to request you to be good enough to take immediate action and oppose the movement and, if necessary, to communicate with H. B. M.'s Minister at Peking, as it is in contravention of Article X of the treaty of Nanking of 1842, which provides that British merchants having paid the regulated Customs and duties such merchandise may be conveyed by Chinese merchants to any province or city in the empire of China. The said monopoly, if granted, would therefore be tantamount to placing restrictions on Chinese merchants in general. We may add that we are afraid, if the monopoly is given, that the Chinese Officials may push the consumption of native Opium to the detriment of foreign drug.

We remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

(signed) DAVID SASSOON & Co. LD.
E. D. SASSOON & Co.
E. PABANEY.
CAWASJEE PALLANJEE & Co.
S. J. DAVID & Co.
TATA & Co.
A. ABRAHIM & Co.
D. E. J. ABRAHIM & Co.
P. B. PETIT & Co.
TALATI & Co., and others.

To
Sir Pelham L. Warren, K.C.M.G.,
H.B.M.'s Consul General,
Shanghai

Shanghai 11th July 1907.

E. B. SKOTTOWE, Esq.,
Chairman, China Association, Present.

OPIMUM MONOPOLY.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to enclose herein translation of three articles which appeared in Chinese newspapers on different dates, from which you will observe that the Viceroy of Nanking is making rapid preparations to take, on behalf of the Chinese Government, the monopoly of Opium. This, if allowed to come into force, would destroy competition and thereby cripple the trade and is in direct contravention of article 14 of the Treaty of Tientsin of 1858 (ratified in 1860) between France and China, which is as follows:—

"No privileged commercial society shall henceforth be established in China, and the same shall apply to any organised coalition having for its end the exercise of a monopoly of trade. In case of the contravention of the present

article the Chinese Authorities, on the representation of the Consular Agent, shall advise as to the means of dissolving such associations, of which they are also bound to prevent the existence by the preceding prohibitions, so as to remove all that may stand in the way of free competition."

This treaty also affords protection to us under the favoured nation clause.

We may also quote article V of the Treaty of Nanking of 1842, which is as follows:—

"The Government of China having compelled the British merchants trading at Canton to deal exclusively with certain Chinese merchants called Hong merchants (or Co-Hong) who had been licensed by the Chinese Government for this purpose, the Emperor of China agrees to abolish that practice in future at all ports where British merchants may reside, and to permit them to carry on their mercantile transaction with whatever persons they please."

We may state that a telegram has been dispatched yesterday to Messrs. David Sassoon & Co., LD, in London to promptly protest to the Foreign Office, on behalf of importers, against this monopoly, and we would request you to take this matter up and wire to your Association in London to communicate with the above mentioned firm, with supply of full particulars regarding this question. We shall be pleased to hear from you, at your earliest convenience, that you are wiring to London to take immediate action, as the question requires prompt attention. On hearing from you that you are willing to accord us your support, we shall wire to London to put at the disposal of your Association all particulars relative to this question. We shall be glad to defray telegraphic and other expenses incurred by the Association regarding this matter.

We may mention that H.B.M.'s Consul General here has received from the Consul of Nanking confirmation that a monopoly is being formed and has already wired to H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking, but so far no reply has been received.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) DAVID SASSOON & Co. LD.
E. D. SASSOON & Co.
S. J. DAVID & Co.

Shanghai 2nd August 1907.
OPIMUM MONOPOLY.

SIR,—With reference to the several interviews which the representatives of the Sassoons had with you, on our behalf regarding the above important subject, we now beg to enclose a translation of the letter which our Chinese dealers have addressed to us, from which you will observe that if the monopoly comes into force they may not be able to fulfil their outstanding contracts with us as their Opium will not have the same outlet as hitherto. Their previous purchases of Opium which are yet uncleared, now stand at about 2500 3000 chests of the value of about two million taels.

Since the monopoly question sprang up the market has been slumped to the extent of about Tls. 70. per chest, notwithstanding the reduction of sale by the Indian Government of 40 chests monthly commencing from last month, which should have had the contrary effect.

The considerable losses which we have already suffered and the further heavy losses which are likely to accrue on our large holdings if the monopoly is allowed to be enforced, have resulted from the action of the Chinese Government which is in direct contravention of article V of the Treaty of Nanking of 1842 and article XIV of the Treaty of Tientsin of 1858 between France and China and which is calculated to ruin the trade in Foreign Opium with the intention apparently of pushing the consumption of native drug.

In view of the above facts, we consider that it would be only just that we should be indemnified by the Chinese Government for the losses which we have had to bear, and for any subsequent losses which may arise if immediate action is not taken to abolish the monopoly. The intention of the British Government was the gradual reduction of the Opium trade and its ultimate abolition in the space of ten years, whereas the action of the Chinese Government is to suddenly extinguish the trade in foreign Opium and thereby cripple the resources of all those who are interested in it, instead of endeavouring to decrease the large areas in the interior under

poppy cultivation. We therefore earnestly request you to take immediately such action as you deem necessary to bring the monopoly to a speedy termination, and would beg you to give us, as soon as possible, information as to the result of your action, so that we may know how to regulate our purchases at the Government of India's monthly auction sales.

We remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Sir PELHAM WARREN K.C.M.G. [Signed by the merchants.]

EXTRACT FROM "SIN WAN PAO."

Proposed establishment of Government Opium Monopoly Bureau.

With reference to our report concerning the closing of Opium shops at the various places in Nanking and the appointment of an inspector to make enquiry regarding the Opium shops, so as to obtain a list of the Opium shopkeepers and employees, which will be submitted and filed for reference, and the funds for carrying out the scheme had already been prepared by the Governor, it is now learned that the opinion of the prefect Hoo Shao Nga is that since the funds derived from the Opium Tax hitherto directed for the maintenance of the Police, Judicial and other departments as well as for carrying out the new administration in its various forms, these departments would, after the suppression of the Opium shops is put in operation, be in lack of funds which are quite necessary. He therefore intends to establish a Government Opium Monopoly Bureau from which all the Opium smoking shops after having been converted into prepared Opium shops will be ordered to get their supply of Opium for sale in the market. In this way not only the price of opium will be enormously increased, but the funds above mentioned will also not be exhausted. According to information, the regulations bearing on the present proposal have been submitted for perusal and approval.

Translation of Extract from "Sin Wan Pao" dated 4th July 1907.

Government Opium Monopoly Bureau and appointment of Officers.

The closing up of all Opium shops at Nanking will be at the end of the 6th moon. The Finance department authorities have taken steps to raise capital for the preparing and sale of Opium which will become a Government Monopoly, and in this connection a station will be established in every section of the City. These stations to the number of 5, will each be under the charge of one deputy and two gentry and will be put under a General Bureau. Viceroy Tuan of the 2 Kiang has appointed Prefect Lo Hu to be the President and Inspector of the Bureau, which will be in working order in the near future.

Translation of a letter addressed to Importers by the Swatow Opium Guild in Shanghai:—

We have been continually receiving advices from our constituents in various countries that the sale of Opium is to be conducted by the Officials, according to the Nanking regulations. It has been arranged that the preparation of Opium is to commence at Nanking on the 22nd of this Chinese moon, namely the 31st inst. and on the first day of the 7th Chinese moon viz. the 9th proximo, offices for the sale of prepared opium to the public will be opened by the Officials. Some wholesale dealers of good standing in the interior have already wound up their business fearing that the monopoly may render it impossible for them to get rid of their Opium. Formerly they were under the impression that only opium smoking dens were to be closed and had no idea that a monopoly would be established. We are afraid that our constituents will not be able to recover the money against the Opium sold by them on credit to retail dealers and consequently they may not be able to pay off the balance of their indebtedness to us. For this reason they are trying to cancel their previous orders. Employees of the Opium monopoly Bureau have already purchased from countries utensils for preparing Opium and workmen have been engaged and sent to Nanking to carry out the work. The head office is established at Can Chow Szechuan. Opium has been sent to Nanking, while over a hundred thousand taels

weight of Opium which would make up a hundred chests has been sent over from Tanahan.

You will, therefore, observe that these are sufficient proofs that a monopoly is being established. We are therefore very much afraid that our business will soon have to stop, in which case we shall not be able to fulfil our outstanding contracts with you as we shall not be able to find any outlet for our uncleared bargains of Opium.

(Signed) OPIUM GUILD.

TRANSLATION OF AN OFFICIAL DESPATCH

An Official despatch published in the "South China Journal" of the Viceroy of Liang Kiang re the erection of an Opium Monopoly Office.

The Viceroy, H. E. Tuan, sent the following despatch to the Provincial Treasurer at Nanking and Taotai Seng Ding Ling.

I received the regulations, in connection with the Opium Monopoly, passed by the Bureau of Revenue of Kiang Nan that merchants are to be asked to buy the Opium and Officials to superintend same and in reply I ordered the erection of an Opium prohibition office and an Opium tax office in Nanking and to make the Treasurer at Nanking their superintendant.

In the petition of the Bureau of Revenue it is mentioned that as the quantity of Opium in the market is so heavy and it is difficult for the Officials to have such a large amount of money to buy the Opium, it seems to be better to give the power of buying to merchants.

The plan is only for the sake of saving money. The prohibition of Opium is ordered by our Emperor and in his Majesty's decree the time allowed for further smoking is very short. As I fear the buying of Opium by merchants will cause delay, it is most necessary that Government departments should be erected to buy and sell the Opium in order to fix and to lessen the quantity of Opium gradually.

The Opium Tax Office should be thus abolished and be changed into a "Kiang Nan Opium Monopoly Office." I request the Treasurer of Nanking to be the superintendant and the expectant Taotai of Hupeh, Seng Ding Ling, to manage the Office affairs. A sum of £15,500,000, will be set aside by the Yue Ning Official Bank as capital of the Office. The Head Office is to be first erected in Nanking and a branch office shall be erected at Yang Chow, Ching Kiang and other such prosperous places.

At the place where an Official Opium Office is formed the boiling of Opium by the people and private shop is strictly prohibited.

The Taotai Seng shall arrange with the Treasurer the way in which the buying, boiling and selling of Opium and of prohibiting private boiling and smoking will be done and the regulations will be sent to me together with a list of general expenses for my approval. The Official stamps of the Office can be engraved at the Treasurer's discretion and I will hand same to the Office when it is presented to me after it is engraved.

PROCLAMATION.

Issued by the Officers in charge of the Kiang Nan (Nanking) Anti-Opium and Government Monopoly Bureau.

Whereas in consequence of the great evils of Opium smoking Decrees have been promulgated for the prohibition of the sale of the drug within the period of a certain number of years and whereas this Bureau has received instructions from the Viceroy to devise means for securing the Government monopoly of the Opium, in obedience to these instructions we have received the approval of the higher authorities. Now, this proclamation is issued for the information of Opium dealers that in future those who possess sufficient capital to carry on their trade are requested to apply to this Bureau for certificates permitting them to buy native and foreign Opium and sell it exclusively to this Bureau. Permission for the retail sale of Opium is to be stopped. Merchants not possessing sufficient capital may act as agents for this Bureau. Those who wish to change their trade are at liberty to do so. Public opium smoking houses must be closed at the end of the sixth moon, the number of branches being limited; those anxious to act as agents should apply at once. They are further required to furnish guarantees from reliable hongs. This scheme will come into operation on the 25th day

of the 6th moon and meetings shall be held at this Bureau for organising the establishment of branches and for framing proper rules. These rules are required to be submitted to the higher authorities for sanction. Persons of small means desirous of obtaining agencies should apply for a copy of the rules between the 5th and 6th of the 7th moon. Their names shall be registered on proof of their having been in the trade previously. Permits will be furnished them forthwith without charge. No application will be considered when the limited number of agencies is filled up.

As regards the conversion of Opium divans into official opium selling agencies the following number inside and outside the city will be allowed, namely 120 agencies inside the city to be situated in four different localities namely East, West, North and South. Each locality to have 30 agencies. Eighty agencies outside the city in four different localities namely East, West, North and South each locality to have 20 agencies. (Merchants must understand that no private establishment for the sale of Opium is allowed, anyone infringing this proclamation will be punished without leniency.)

Copy of telegram forwarded through the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

Committee Hongkong Chamber of Commerce desire add their protest to those already forwarded against Viceroy Nanking proposal establish opium monopoly such step calculated very seriously affect British trade and contrary Treaty rights.

China Association, Hongkong.

18th September, 1907.

The Hon. Mr. F. A. HEWETT,

Chairman,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—This Committee has received a letter from Messrs. David Sassoon & Coy., Ltd., and others interested in the opium trade on the subject of the attempt of the Viceroy of Nanking to establish a monopoly for the sale of opium there. In it is further stated that recently officials connected with the monopoly bureau have bought opium here and shipped it to Nanking, and again that the writers understand that it is intended that similar monopolies are to be started in other provinces of the Empire, such action being in contravention of the Treaty of Nanking, 1842.

This question has been already dealt with by the Shanghai and London Branches of the Association, and the London Committee has forwarded a memorandum to the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs which is so closely identical in its terms with those conveyed in your Chamber's despatch of 3rd instant to the Honourable Colonial Secretary that my Committee are of opinion that only good can come from our acting in common in this matter. I have therefore the pleasure to assure you of their readiness to co-operate with you in the protection of the interests concerned.

I am, &c.,

(Sgd.) A. S. D. COUSLAND.

Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

20th September, 1907.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th instant regarding the protest made by the British Opium Firms against the attempt on the part of certain Chinese Officials to establish Monopolies for the sale of prepared opium in their districts.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce are glad to learn that the Hongkong Branch of your Association are prepared to support this claim in the matter, and for your information I now beg to hand you copies (in triplicate) of the despatches sent to the Hongkong Government and the British Minister at Peking together with all the enclosures dealing with this question. Up to the time of writing no reply has been received to these letters.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Sgd.) EDBERT A. HEWETT,

Chairman.

Alex. D. COUSLAND,

Hon. Secretary.

China Association, Hongkong Branch, Hongkong.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

26th September, 1907.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 3rd instant on the subject of the establishment of a monopoly in the opium trade by the Chinese Authorities at Nanking, and to inform you that His Excellency the Governor has forwarded it to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in order that Lord Elgin may be placed in possession of the fact that the action of the Authorities at Nanking is inflicting a serious injury upon Opium Merchants in this Colony.

His Excellency desires me at the same time to point out that the persons who are directly affected and upon whom should devolve the task of representing to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking the alleged breach of treaty are the merchants of Nanking and that the merchants of this Colony should endeavour in order to protect their own interest to take steps similar to those taken by the merchants of Shanghai.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Sgd.) F. H. MAY,

Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT,
Chairman, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

British Legation, Peking.

18th September, 1907.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant respecting the opium monopoly which the Viceroy of Liang Kiang proposed to establish at Nanking.

In reply I have to inform you that on hearing of the proposed establishment of the monopoly, I made both written and verbal representations to the Wai wu pu pointing out to them that pending the negotiation of an understanding on the whole question of opium between the two Governments which was inadmissible for the provinces to take upon themselves to devise measures which had the effect of restricting a trade the freedom of which was guaranteed by treaty.

As a result of my representations telegraphic instructions were sent to the Viceroy of Nanking and a proclamation was issued by the Kiang Nan Opium Monopoly Bureau on the 7th instant, copy of which has no doubt reached you, suspending the operation of the monopoly.

I have read with especial interest the letter which you addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong on the 3rd instant, relative to the monopoly and other points connected with the foreign opium trade with China, and I take this opportunity of thanking you for your courtesy in communicating it to me.

I am, &c.,

J. N. JORDAN.

The Chairman said the reply from H. B. M's Minister at Peking was very satisfactory under the circumstances.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A CHESS PROBLEM.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]—

SIR,—Will you permit me, through the medium of your paper, to ask the following question in chess to some of your readers who are interested in the game?

This was the position arrived at when the point in dispute arose:—

WHITE.			BLACK.		
K.	on Q.	Kt. 3	K.	on Q.	Kt. 3
Kt.	"	Q. B. 3	P.	"	Q. B. 2
P.	"	Q. Kt. 4	P.	"	Q. R. 3
Kt.	"	Q. B. 5	R.	"	K. B. 6
R.	"	Q. 7			
R.	"	K. R. 7			

Now, can the black king move to Q. Kt. 4? The contention is that the king can move to that square since the white Kt. is unable to move on account of the check by the black rook.—Yours etc.

CHESSBOARD.

The extract of meteorological observations made at the Observatory during the month of October show that the average maximum temperature was 83.4 and the minimum 75.4 degrees. The rainfall during the same period was 8.965 inches, and there were 191.2 hours of sunshine.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

THE REVIEW.

On Nov. 9th was the sixty-sixth birthday of His Majesty the King and in Hongkong, as in other parts of the Empire, the occasion was fittingly celebrated. The usual review was held at Happy Valley, and at an early hour in the morning crowds of citizens were making their way in that direction. The streets, leading to the great sport centre of Hongkong were crowded. Soldiers were marching there, the trams were packed and there were no idle riches. It was a warm day with brilliant sunshine, and the Valley was seen at its best. The surrounding hills were devoid of mist, and on the heights of Bowen Road many spectators could be discerned watching the evolutions of the troops. These were not so numerous as in previous years, and it was again noticeable that the fleet was not represented, a circumstance which many people who admire the unrivalled marching of the "handyman" regretted. But if the men in khaki were not so numerous as before the spectators were, if anything, more so. Cosmopolitan Hongkong turned out in full force. European ladies in pretty summer attire mixed with gaudily dressed Chinese, spic and span officers and foreign sailors in their uniforms, the crowd presenting a picture that can be seen in few other places than Hongkong.

The large and picturesque amphitheatre, where in the football season so many hard battles are fought, was for the time the parade ground of nearly 2000 armed men. The troops were early on the scene, and Colonel Darling and his staff soon had them in position, so that when His Excellency the Governor, who was escorted by members of the Hongkong Volunteer Troop, arrived, all were ready to receive him. His Excellency, who was mounted on a spirited black pony, was accompanied by his A.D.C. to the saluting base. Here as he took up his position the Union Jack was hoisted and the *feu de joie* opened. First the loud mouthed cannon, then the rifle fire. When the echo of the report of the last gun had died away, Colonel Darling called for three cheers for his Majesty. Needless to say three willing and hearty cheers followed, the echo from 2000 voices reverberating among the hills.

Then the march past, Colonel Darling and the staff officers, Major Ross D.A.Q.M.C., and Captain Hart Synott, took up positions with H.E. the Governor at the saluting base, immediately opposite this, and in the centre of the enclosure, being the massed bands. When all was ready the band struck up a stirring martial air, and the soldiers stepped off. As each regiment neared the saluting base the band played its particular march.

The troops passed the saluting base in the following order:—Hongkong Volunteer Troop, Royal Garrison Artillery, Royal Engineers, Middlesex Regiment, Royal Army Medical Corps, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, Hongkong and Singapore Royal Garrison Artillery, 119th Infantry, 129th Baluchis, Indian Medical Staff.

There were on parade 16 units of the Volunteer Troop; R.G.A., 415; Royal Engineers, 185; Middlesex, 201; R.A.M.C., 3; Volunteers, 58; H.K.S.B.R.G.A., 307; 119th Infantry, 261; 129th Baluchis, 250; Indian Medical Staff, 3.

The march past was an excellent one, and as company after company passed the base showing an even front and a steady line of cold steel they were cheered by the spectators, who also saluted the colours of various regiments which were borne on high by the standard bearers. The march past finished, and the troops were formed up in review order and marched back to barracks. At noon a royal salute was fired from the British and foreign battleships in port.

The city on Saturday was adorned with flags, while the harbour afforded a pretty view, almost every kind of craft on the water being alive with bunting. Special care had been taken in the dressing of the battleships, which certainly looked very attractive.

THE BIRTHDAY DINNER.

On Saturday evening at Government House his Excellency and Lady Lugard entertained some seventy guests to dinner. The Governor and his lady proved admirable hosts, and those

who attended to do honour to His Majesty spent a very enjoyable evening. They were the Rt. Rev. Bishop Pozzoni, His Honour Mr. Justice Wise, H.F. Colonel C. H. Darling, Hon. Mr. F. H. and Mrs. May, Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson, Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, Hon. Mr. W. and Mrs. Chatham, Hon. Dr. J. M. and Mrs. Atkinson, Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewatt, His Honour Mr. Justice Gompertz, Hon. Mr. A. W. and Mrs. Brewin, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk. Hon. Mr. H. E. and Mrs. Pollock, Hon. Commander Basil R. H. Taylor and Mrs. Taylor, The Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Banister, Capt. F. W. and Mrs. Lyons, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Mr. R. H. Scovell, Mr. E. J. H. Droeze, Chevalier Volpicelli, Mr. B. de Szentirmay, M. R. Soulange Teisser, Dr. and Mrs. Voretzsch, Mr. S. Mashiko, Mr. and Mrs. Bribosia, Consul General Romano, Lt. Col. Dumbleton, Colonel F. E. Kent, Lt. Col. Scott-Moncrieff and Mrs. Scott-Moncrieff, Major and Mrs. Chitty, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Carter, Lt. Col. Reid, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Seymour, Mr. A. B. Ogle, Mr. Fung Wa-chun, Mr. Lau Chupak, Mr. Ho Kam-tung, Mr. Chau Sui-ki, Sir Henry and Lady Berkeley, Major, Mrs. and Miss Chapman, Mr. D. R. Law, Mr. McI Messer, Mr. and Mrs. Shewan, Mr. G. W. Eves, Mr. and Mrs. Rennie and Captain Monteiro.

ANNUAL LICENSING SESSIONS.

On November 5th His Majesty's Justices of the Peace assembled at the Magistracy to consider applications for publicans' and adjunct licenses for the ensuing year. Mr. F. A. Hazell presided, and there were also present Captain F. W. Lyons, Captain Superintendent of Police, Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. R. H. A. Craig and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands. Publicans' licenses were granted to the following:—Arthur Frederick Davies, The Hongkong Hotel; Dunjeebhoy Dorabjee, the King Edward Hotel; Isidor Silbermann, the Globe Hotel; Moritz Sternberg, the International Hotel; Mary Matthaey, the Oriental Hotel; George Green, the Criterion Hotel; M. Tchetchelnitzki, the Land We Live In Hotel; Bernard Mayer, the Colonial Hotel; Esther Oliver, the New Travellers' Hotel; Paul Wissing, the German Tavern; R. H. Whittaker, the Praya East Hotel; O. Owen, the Kowloon Hotel; Ichel Gruzman, the Central Hotel; L. Lobo, the Stag Hotel; William Krater, The Rose, Shamrock and Thistle Hotel; Louis Comar, the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

With regard to Krater's application, the CHAIRMAN informed the Justices that the applicant was fined for selling adulterated liquor. The case was not a very serious one and the applicant made a satisfactory statement, but at the same time the Chairman felt it his duty to inflict a fine.

Captain LYONS did not think the case was serious enough to cause the applicant to lose his licence.

The other justices agreed.

With reference to Louis Comar's application, the CHAIRMAN stated that the applicant had held an adjunct licence for some years. His present application was for a publican's licence, and there was no police objection.

Captain LYONS—When I say no police objection, I mean as to the way in which the house is conducted. But from my own point of view I am against increasing the number of publicans' licences.

The CHAIRMAN—Two have been eliminated.

Mr. CRAIG—Has there not already been some question about this applicant?

The CHAIRMAN—That was because he wanted to remove to Queen's Road Central.

Captain LYONS—I rather think a public house is wanted where the applicant is at present—near the sea front.

It was agreed to grant the licence.

The following applications for adjunct licenses were granted:—Hans Weismann, The Café Weismann Ltd; Dady Manekji Langrana, the Connaught House Hotel; Alex. Moir, the Peak Hotel; A. A. H. Milroy, the Sailor's Home; Tam King-kaw, the Shanghai Hotel; J. H. Newbold, the Owl Grill Room.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY AND FORGERY.

As the result of an action in the summary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Lam Wing, Hau Kee, Li Hi-shiu and Hop Wo-tong were charged with conspiracy to avert the course of justice. Again they were charged separately, Lam Wing with forgery and uttering; Hau Kee with forgery; Li Hi-shiu with forgery, and Hop Wo-tong with forging and uttering.

Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, appeared for the prosecution and Mr. R. Harding appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Pollock stated that the prosecution in the case arose out of proceedings taken in summary jurisdiction before Mr. Justice Wise. In the summary action, which commenced on September 2nd, the first defendant, Lam Wing, was the plaintiff and a firm called the Po Sang were defendants. In that action the plaintiff stated his claim in two alternative ways: he claimed from the defendant, as endorsee of Hau Kee, the sum of \$50.84 amount due on a promissory note. Hau Kee the second defendant, was the party who appeared on the forged promissory note as payee, and the note was endorsed over to the plaintiff. In the other alternative the plaintiff claimed as assignee of Hau Kee. Presumably the object of putting in that alternative claim would be that if the document was not strictly a promissory note the plaintiff could proceed as assignee of Hau Kee under the agreement. The summary action started on September 26th and concluded on October 18th when Mr. Justice Wise gave judgment for the defendants—the Po Sang. The first defendant was suing as endorsee or assignee from the second. The way in which the third and fourth came into the matter was that they were called by the plaintiff as witnesses for the purpose of supporting the first defendant's case as plaintiff in the action; and curiously enough these third and fourth defendants produced in Court a document purporting to be a promissory note in their favour, and purporting to be chopped by the Po Sang firm. The chop on these notes was identical with the chop on the promissory note sued upon by the first defendant. That chop was sworn to by the managing partner and foks of the Po Sang shop to be a forged chop. The genuine chops of this firm were produced before his Lordship, and later his Worship would have an opportunity of comparing the genuine with the forged chop and, no doubt, would observe certain discrepancies between the two chops. Mr. Pollock wished to draw his Worship's attention to the fact that the first, third and fourth defendants produced promissory notes which had the identical forgery on them. He suggested to his Worship that it was obvious there had been a conspiracy on the part of these parties to defraud the Po Sang firm. His Worship would find in the first charge various statements which the defendants made before Mr. Justice Wise in the Summary Court, and he wished to point out to his Worship a certain general point with regard to those statements: all the defendants seemed to have told Mr. Wise that a man called Mui Hung was the man with whom they dealt; that was to say, that when money was deposited on each of these notes it was Mui Hung who was there to receive the money and chop the notes. As a matter of fact, it would appear from the evidence that Mui Hung was also concerned in the management of a boarding house, and during a considerable portion of the day he was absent at this boarding house.

His Worship—What is the Po Sang?

Mr. Pollock—A Chinese bank. Proceeding, Mr. Pollock stated that evidence would be given to show that the Po Sang did not issue any promissory notes. They never had in their possession any stamped paper stamped by the Stamp Office. Apart from the statements of witnesses from the Po Sang in confirmation of this statement he would call a witness from the Stamp Office who says that no requisition for stamps was made by the Po Sang. The defendants had put everything on to Mui Hung, and he denied it. The man who was left to look after the Po Sang business was Li Wan-cho. With regard to the note from Lam Wing to Hau Kee, that note had an impressed stamp dated 17th August. The defendants,

tory was that this stamped paper was in the Po Sang, that it was filled up by the Po Sang people and chopped by Mui Hung. An officer from the Stamp Office would say that no requisition had been made by the Po Sang for stamps on that day.

His Worship—Nor on any previous date?

Mr. Pollock—No. Continuing, Mr. Pollock said the notes produced by the third and fourth defendants were stamped August 27th. The Stamp Officer produced a requisition on that date for stamps on no less than 23 promissory notes, and that requisition contained a chop on it which read, "correspondence chop of the Po Sang". But it would be proved that chop was a forgery. It also appeared that the requisition was by one, Tam Ho. No such person was in the employment of the Po Sang, neither was he known to the employees. Apart from the conspiracy Counsel said he would submit on the facts as regards the separate charges that all the defendants were parties to the forgery. The notes produced before his Worship were prepared obviously with the object of putting them in circulation and making use of them with intent to defraud the Po Sang.

Evidence was then called, and the case adjourned.

VOLUNTEER CAMP.

4th November.

Though not favoured with the ideal weather which prevailed on former occasions the Volunteer Camp, concluding to-day, has been very successful. The programme of drills was abandoned during last week by reason of the inclement weather, but the time was not wasted, and other exercises were substituted for those set down in the regular courses. The week-end was decidedly interesting. The cadets, who are not so numerous as last year, went over to camp on Friday and made considerable progress in signalling under their army instructor. On Saturday the artillery companies had big gun practice from one of the heights on the island and acquitted themselves very well.

Saturday, being official guest night, His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Captain Taylor, A.D.C., visited the camp. He arrived in the afternoon and inspected the tents in the absence of the men at fifteen pounder practice. On their return they fell in again and gave an exhibition of battery drill. At the close the men were drawn up and addressed by His Excellency, who said he was surprised and delighted at what he had seen. He had to congratulate them on the manner in which they handled their guns and he was delighted at the efficiency which they displayed. His Excellency dined with Major Chapman, the Commandant, and officers in the Officer's Mess and replied to the toast of his health. Afterwards the large number of distinguished guests, and the officers adjourned to the Mess Matshed where a concert was enjoyed. Not only was there a large muster of the corps present, but many guests accepted the hospitality of the Volunteers.

Sunday was a busy day. In the morning there was a ceremonial parade at which the *feu de joie* was practised, and after breakfast there was the usual drumhead service which was conducted by the Rev. G. Searle. The reverend gentleman preached a simple discourse in the course of which he urged the claims of the local hospitals, for which a collection was taken. Afterwards the Volunteers were paraded again under Major Chapman for inspection by Colonel Darling. The inspecting officer was received with a general salute, and the companies having been put through several movements were drawn up to hear the remarks addressed by Colonel Darling. He said that this was the second year that he found himself by accident inspecting the Volunteers. He was delighted with their appearance and they had acquitted themselves well on parade. Two years ago he had to point out that some of the belts were not as tight as they ought to be, but he was pleased to see now that that was remedied. That was the last day of the camp, which he was glad to learn from Major Chapman, had been very orderly. They had had bad weather but they had recovered quickly from the effects of the storm and now the encampment looked

neat and tidy, reflecting credit on all concerned. The C. R. A. had informed him that the shooting with the fifteen pounders on the previous afternoon, taking into consideration the fact that the men had not as much preliminary practice as usual by reason of the wet weather, was satisfactory, although the results were not so good as last year. Of the engineers who went up for examination on the previous afternoon all had passed with one exception, which must be considered satisfactory. He had seen them handle their arms very well and that reminded him of certain observations he wished to make regarding infantry. If they looked at any home papers they would see a great deal about the army scheme and the proposed territorial army. By the territorial army it was contemplated placing men where they would be most useful and not in the particular service for which they had an inclination. That would involve the reduction of the Volunteer Artillery in Hongkong, where as a matter of fact, there were too many men for the work to be done. In time of trouble there would only be a percentage of men—the more skilled—engaged on the guns while the rest would remain in Victoria Barracks as a reserve. Moreover the tendency at present was to have larger guns and fewer of them, consequently there would not be so many artillerymen wanted. If they had one or two more companies of infantry they would be useful in the defence of the Colony. He understood there had been correspondence passing on the subject with the Local Defence Committee, but for some reason or other the formation of the infantry company had fallen through. Apparently the men did not wish to transfer, but he would remind them that their arms would be the same and they would more work like the ceremonial parade they had just done. Last year they had a field day with the West Kents, but nothing of the kind had been done this year. The Engineers were a valuable corps. They could do with about ten times the number as in the maintenance of the telephones they would be most useful. It had been suggested that a corps of telephone operators should be formed. Some of them might think it would be rather a dull occupation but it would not mean sitting in an office. They might be placed on the top of one of those hills and might have a rough and tumble, giving them as much fighting as they wanted if the enemy tried to capture one of the telephone stations. He was glad to hear that the health of the men had been good and that the camp was one of the most orderly held on the island.

Colonel Darling afterwards inspected the tents.

In the afternoon there was the usual programme of sports carried through in the presence of a large number of visitors. The boat race between the Regulars and Volunteers resulted in a win for the former. The boat and putty race as usual provided no little amusement. The shrewd little cadets made a good show, Cadet Little coming in first while another came in third. Gunner Melje was second. Sergt Darby's team (Right Half No 2) won the fifteen pounder competition, and the Right Half No. 1 company won the team race. In the heavy weighttug of war the garrison team (87th Coy) pulled the Volunteers, but in the light weight competition the Volunteers won the first pull. However, they could not last, and after a great struggle the soldiers secured the honours. Cadet Pepper won the cadets' race and there were the usual events for boys and girls.

An unreported incident of the camp was a volunteer being bitten on the foot by a snake. The prompt measures of the corporal in charge of the hospital rendered the effects less serious than might have been the case.

A Formosan camphor factory situated on a hill at Sankakuyu, near the defence line against the aborigines, has been suffering lately from raids by the savages. About 1,500 Formosan operatives are employed at the factory, and during the past few weeks, four or five operatives have fallen into the hands of the aborigines, who after killing their victims, carried away their heads. Owing to the fears of further raids by the aborigines, work at the camphor factory has been suspended, and all the operatives have withdrawn to Sankakuyu.

SHANGHAI RACES.

HEAVY GOING.

SHANGHAI, November 4th.

There was a soft course for the opening races of our Jockey Club's Autumn meeting.

MALDO PLATE.—Value, Tls. 250. Half a mile. 19 entries.

Mr. Ballnus' Antaeus, 158 lbs. ... (Mr. Schnorr) 1
Mr. Manchester's Snippet, 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Railton) 2
Mr. N. W. Hickling's Maybury, 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Johnstone) 3

Time. 1.02-4/5.

CRITERION STAKES.—Value, Tls. 400. One mile. 23 entries.

Mr. Fairoffer's Raceland 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Crighton) 1
Mr. Quebec's Rurio 152 lbs. (Mr. Moller) 2
Mr. John Peel's Cetswold 158 lbs. ... (Mr. Johnstone) 3

Time. 2.13-2/5.

MAIDEN STAKES.—Value, Tls. 400. Three-quarters of a mile. 43 entries.

Mr. Beverly's Taunton 155 lbs. (Mr. Reid) 1
Mr. California's Earthquake 152 lbs. ... (Mr. Vida) 2
Messrs. Toeg & Speele's Hunter 158 lbs. ... (Mr. Wulleumier) 3

Time. 1.36-2/5.

CLUB CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. Two miles. 27 entries.

Mr. Henry Morriss' Heathfield 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Master) 1
Mr. Nephew's Caseler 155 lbs. (Mr. Hayes) 2
Mr. Criterion's Jaggars 152 lbs. ... (Mr. Lawrence) 3

Time. 4.41-4/5.

BRITISH NAVY CUP.—Presented. One mile. 16 entries.

Mr. Ballnus' Gemini 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Schnorr) 1
Mr. Fash's Marbles 161 lbs. ... (Mr. Alderton) 2
Mr. Mellow's St. Olaf 158 lbs. ... (Mr. Cumming) 3

Time. 2.15-3/5.

FAH-WAH STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a half. 29 entries.

Mr. Barley's Moriak 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Crighton) 1
Mr. Marius' Argante 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Vida) 2
Uncle Charlie's Maryland 158 lbs. ... (Mr. Hayes) 3

Time. 3.36

ECLIPSE STAKES.—Value, Tls. 300. One mile and a quarter. 37 entries.

Uncle Charlie's Colorado 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Hayes) 1
Mr. Fernando's Corrie 152 lbs. ... (Mr. Lawrence) 2
Mr. Twovees' Polo Stick 158 lbs. ... (Mr. Master) 3

Time. 2.56-3/5

AUTUMN CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a quarter. 38 entries.

Mr. Beverly's Brookton 155 lbs. (Mr. Reid) 1
Mr. G. H. Potts's Manchu King 161 lbs. ... (Mr. Cumming) 2
Mr. Quebec's Cedric 158 lbs. (Mr. Moller) 3

Time 2.48-2/5

WHANGPOO STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a half. 35 entries.

Mr. John Peel's Eglinton 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Johnstone) 1
Mr. Fernando's Lamlash 155 lbs. ... (Mr. Lawrence) 2
Messrs. Toeg and Speele's Salmon 152 lbs. (Mr. Springfield) 3

Time 3.33-3/5

SECOND DAY.

SHANGHAI, 5th November.

Fine weather favoured the second day's racing.

NORTHERN CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. Three-quarters of a mile. 21 entries.

Mr. Quebec's Rurio 152 lbs. ... (Mr. Moller) 1
Mr. John Peel's Costwold 158 lbs. ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. Charley's Northern King 152 lbs. ... (Mr. Master) 3

Times 1.34-4/5.

CHINA CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile. 47 entries.
Mr. Quebec's Rustic 161 lbs ... (Mr. Moller) 1
Mr. Beverly's Taunton 155 lbs ... (Mr. Reid) 2
Mr. Fernando's Lamash 155 lbs ... (Mr. Lawrence) 3

Time. 2.11-4/5.

SHANGHAI ST. LEGER.—Value, Tls. 750. One mile and three-quarters. 25 entries.
Mr. G. H. Potts' Manchu King 152 lbs ... (Mr. Cumming) 1
Mr. Buxey's Spring Rose 157 lbs ... (Mr. Mas'er) 2
Mr. Ring's Seafoam 147 lbs (Mr. Vida) ... 3

Time—3.52 2/5.

PAGODA CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. Seven Furlongs. 45 entries.
Mr. California's Earthquake 152 lbs ... (Mr. Vida) 1
Mr. John Peel's Mak Siccac 158 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Uncle Charlie's Columbia 161 lbs ... (Mr. Hayes) 3

Times—1.51 2/5.

SHANGHAI STAKES.—A forced entry of Tls. 5. One mile and a half. 120 entries.
Mr. Mowat's Starlight 155 lbs ... (Mr. Lawrence) 1
Mr. John Peel's Eglinton 148 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. Marius' Argante 155 lbs (Mr. Vida) ... 3

Time—3.20.1/5

RACING STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a quarter. 33 entries.
Mr. Ring's Seafoam 152 lbs ... (Mr. Vida) 1
Mr. G. H. Potts' Mongol King 166 lbs ... (Mr. Cumming) 2
Messrs. Oswald, Hunter and Burkill's Ravenshoe 152 lbs (Mr. Master) ... 3

Time—2.46-1/5.

LLAMA MIAU STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and three-quarters. 32 entries.
Mr. Henry Morris' Heathfield 155 lbs ... (Mr. Master) 1
Mr. John Peel's Quorn 158 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. G. H. Potts' Southern King 161 lbs ... (Mr. Cumming) 3

Time. 3.52-3/5.

SYCEE STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a quarter. 40 entries.
Mr. Henry Morris' Lingfield 155 lbs ... (Mr. Master) 1
Uncle Charlie's Valdai 153 lbs ... (Mr. Hayes) 2
Mr. Mellaw's St. Olaf, 158 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 3

Time—2.48-3/5.

SICCAWEI PLATE.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a quarter. 33 entries.
Mr. Buxey's Spring Rose 155 lbs ... (Mr. Master) 1
Mr. John Peel's Ard Patrick 155 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. Quebec's Mystic 155 lbs ... (Mr. Vida) 3

Time. 2.49.

THIRD DAY.

SHANGHAI, 6TH NOVEMBER.

TAI-KOO CUP.—Presented by G. W. Swire, Esq. Seven Furlongs. 36 entries.
Uncle Charlie's Maryland 155 lbs ... (Mr. Hayes) 1
Mr. John Peel's Ard Patrick 155 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. Rennick's Moonlight 152 lbs ... (Mr. Campbell) 3

Time. 1.50

POU-MA-TING CUP.—Value, Tls. 300. One mile and a quarter. 43 entries.
Mr. Mellaw's St. Olaf 158 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 1
Mr. Ballnus's Gemini 155 lbs ... (Mr. Schnorr) 2
Mr. Henry Morris' Lingfield 155 lbs ... (Mr. Master) 3

Time. 2.45.

COSMOPOLITAN CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and three-quarters. 38 entries.
Mr. John Peel's Quorn 158 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 1
Mr. Marius' Argante 155 lbs ... (Mr. Vida) 2
Mr. Buxey's Glorious Rose 155 lbs ... (Mr. Master) 3

Time. 3.53.

GRAND STAND STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. Three-quarters of a mile. 51 entries.

Mr. Fernando's Corrie 152 lbs ... (Mr. Lawrence) 1
Mr. Ballnus's Gemini 155 lbs ... (Mr. Schnorr) 2
Messrs. Toeg & Speele's Hunter 158 lbs ... (Mr. Wauillumier) 3

Time. 1.32

PARI-MUTUEL CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a half. 40 entries.
Mr. G. H. Potts' Mongol King 161 lbs ... (Mr. Cumming) 1
Mr. John Peel's Ard Patrick 155 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Messrs. Oswald, Hunter and Burkill's Ravenshoe 152 lbs (Mr. Master) ... 3

Time. 3.23

MANCHU STAKES.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a quarter. 52 entries.
Mr. Barley & Elms Mainstay 155 lbs ... (Mr. Crighton) 1
Mr. John Peel's Mak Siccac 158 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. G. H. Potts' Eastern King 152 lbs ... (Mr. Cumming) 3

Time. 2.48-2/5.

CONSOLATION CUP.—Value, Tls. 250. One mile and a quarter. 42 entries.
Uncle Charlie's Controller 158 lbs ... (Mr. Hayes) 1
Mr. John Peel's Cotswold 158 lbs ... (Mr. Johnstone) 2
Mr. Marius' Argante 155 lbs ... (Mr. Vida) 3

Time. 2.43-1/5.

CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKES.—Value, Tls. 800. One mile and a quarter.
Mr. Beverly's Brockton, 155 lbs (Mr. Reid) 1
Mr. Ring's Seafoam 152 lbs ... (Mr. Vida)* 2
Mr. Buxey's Spring Rose 155 lbs ... (Mr. Master)* 2

*dead heat

Time. 2.42

Moriak, the favourite in this race ran fifth. Brockton won by three lengths.

JOCKEY CUP.—Value, Tls. 200. Seven furlongs. 34 entries.
Mr. Rennick's Moonlight 152 lbs ... (Mr. Fisher) 1
Mr. Siccus' Pat 158 lbs ... (Mr. Jovers) 2
Mr. Manchester's Snippet 155 lbs ... (Mr. McClellan) 3

Time. 1.50-2/5.

The following are the analyses of owners, Jockeys and ponies in the various events at the recent meeting:—

OWNER.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Uncle Charlie ...	3	1	2
Mr. Beverly ...	3	1	—
Mr. Henry Morris ...	3	—	1
Mr. John Peel ...	2	9	1
Mr. G. H. Potts ...	2	2	2
Mr. Ballnus ...	2	2	—
Mr. Quebec ...	2	1	2
Mr. Buxey ...	1	2	1
Mr. Fernando ...	1	2	1
The Ring ...	1	1	1
Mr. California ...	1	1	—
Mr. Mellaw ...	1	—	2
Mr. Rennick ...	1	—	1
Messrs. Barley and Elms ...	1	—	—
Mr. Mowat ...	1	—	—
Mr. Barley ...	1	—	—
Mr. Fairroffer ...	1	—	—
Mr. Marius ...	—	2	2
Mr. Manchester ...	—	1	1
Mr. Nephew ...	—	1	—
Mr. Fash ...	—	1	—
Mr. Siccus ...	—	1	—
Messrs. Toeg and Speele ...	—	—	3
Messrs. Oswald, Hunter and Burkill ...	—	—	2
Mr. N. W. Hickling ...	—	—	1
Mr. Criterion ...	—	—	1
Mr. Twovees ...	—	—	1
Mr. Charley ...	—	—	1

JOCKEY.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.
Mr. Master ...	4	2	6
Mr. Johnstone ...	3	9	3
Mr. Hayes ...	3	2	2
Mr. Reid ...	3	1	—
Mr. Crighton ...	3	—	—
Mr. Vida ...	2	4	4
Mr. Cumming ...	2	2	3
Mr. Lawrence ...	2	2	2
Mr. Schnorr ...	2	2	—
Mr. Moller ...	2	1	1
Mr. Fisher ...	1	—	—

Mr. Railton ...	—	1	—
Mr. Alderton ...	—	1	—
Mr. Jovers ...	—	1	—
Mr. Wauillumier ...	—	—	2
Mr. Springfield ...	—	—	1
Mr. Campbell ...	—	—	1
Mr. McClellan ...	—	—	1

PONY.	1st	2nd	3rd
Brockton ...	2	—	—
Heathfield ...	2	—	—
Gemini ...	1	2	—
Spring Rose ...	1	2	—
Seafoam ...	1	1	1
Ruric ...	1	1	—
Taunton ...	1	1	—
Earthquake ...	1	1	—
Corrie ...	1	1	—
Manchu King ...	1	1	—
Eglinton ...	1	1	—
Mongol King ...	1	1	—
Quorn ...	1	1	—
St. Olaf ...	1	1	2
Maryland ...	1	—	1
Lingfield ...	1	—	1
Moonlight ...	1	—	1
Antacus ...	1	—	—
Raceland ...	1	—	—
Moriak ...	1	—	—
Colorado ...	1	—	—
Rustic ...	1	—	—
Starlight ...	1	—	—
Mainstay ...	1	—	—
Controller ...	1	—	—
Ard Patrick ...	—	3	—
Argante ...	—	2	2
Cotswold ...	—	2	1
Mak Siccac ...	—	2	—
Snippet ...	—	1	—
Lamash ...	—	1	1
Caseler ...	—	1	—
Marbles ...	—	1	—
Valdai ...	—	1	—
Pot ...	—	1	—
Hunter ...	—	—	2
Ravenshoe ...	—	—	2
Maybury ...	—	—	1
Jagers ...	—	—	1
Polo Stick ...	—	—	1
Cedric ...	—	—	1
Salmon ...	—	—	1
Northern King ...	—	—	1
Columbia ...	—	—	1
Southern King ...	—	—	1
Mystic ...	—	—	1
Glorious Rose ...	—	—	1
Eastern King ...	—	—	1

YACHTING.

C.Y.C. OPENING CRUISE.

Yesterday the members of the Corinthian Yacht Club had their opening cruise, and as usual, made it a picnic and regatta for the entertainment of numerous ladies and friends. Futachau was the place, and here, in the ruin of the old Customs Station, about 150 sat down to tiffin. Over twenty craft turned out, and there were several launches.

Mrs. E. M. Hazeland, introduced by the Commodore, Dr. Clarke, presented the prizes, mostly silver trophies, the winners being as indicated in the following list.

Motor boat race (time allowance):—1st, Mr. Lyons, "Nellie"; 2nd, Mr. J. W. Kew. "Bridgeport."

Handicap Class Yachts.—(raced by members not boat-owners) 1st Mr. Summers' "Eva"; 2nd, Mr. Ramsay's "Caresa."

Ladies' Race, One Design Boats.—1st, Miss Hoskins, in Mr. Pearman's "Spray"; 2nd, Mrs. Pepper, in Mr. Crake's "Thecla."

Motor boats.—1st, Mr. Lyons; 2nd, Mr. Kew. Handicap Class (open).—Mr. Summers' "Eva"; 2nd, Mr. Saunders' "Tremona."

One Design (open).—1st, Mr. R. Witchell's "Asthore"; 2nd, Mr. Crake's "Thecla."

Cruisers (steered by ladies).—1st, Mrs. Rodger in the "Dorothy"; 2nd, Mrs. Hazeland in the "Alannah."

Mrs. Hazeland was presented with a bouquet in a silver holder.

The officials were as follows:—

Judges:—Messrs. J. Hand and W. A. Crake. Clerks of the Course:—Messrs. E. M. Hazeland and D. Templeton.

Motor Boat Handicappers:—Messrs. E. M. Hazeland and W. A. Crake.
 Starter:—Mr. M. McIver.
 Time Keepers:—Messrs. T. Meek and C. J. Cooke.
 Stewards:—Messrs. H. Pearman and W. Bassford.
 Hon Treasurer, Mr. A. McKirdy; Hon. Sec. Mr. Lewis Guy. Without the exertions of the last two named, the outing could not have been so successful as it was.

RAILWAY NOTES.

As work progresses on the Kowloon Canton Railway construction, improvements to expedite it are being introduced. The works at the south face of the tunnel at Kowloon are fitted with the latest electrical appliances. There, now, it is always day. Darkness cannot impede the progress of the work, for when night closes in numerous powerful arc lamps, the latest extant, light up the surroundings and enable the workmen to carry on with the same ease as in daylight. These lights are also being installed at the north face of the tunnel.

Shatin valley, which is surrounded by high hills, is a very unhealthy place. There the deadly malaria reigns, and so prevalent has it been among the excavators and others employed there that the Railway Authorities had to consider what could be done to protect the health of the employees. On one side of the works is a high and steep hill. It occurred to one of the engineers that if the men's quarters were built on the top of this, much illness might be averted. Accordingly a bungalow was erected high up on the hill, and now the workmen are housed in the bracing atmosphere of the heights. It is a long, steep climb, however, to reach the quarters, and it was not long after the innovation that complaints were rife among the workmen about the exhausting finish to a hard day's work. Their voices were not raised in vain. The employers were generous, and now the men return home in chairs after work.

But this is not all. The Railway Authorities have decided on an overhead wire railway from the works to the bungalow. The machinery for this is already in the railway stores and it is expected that this novelty will be in working order within the next three or four months.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT THE PEAK.

It is seldom that Peak residents are disturbed by the highway robber, but on November 6th, in broad daylight, he made his appearance not far from the Plantation Road tramway station. On that afternoon Mrs. L. Gibbs, of No. 107, the Peak, was proceeding to the station named, intending to come to Hong-kong, when she was attacked by a Chinese whom she said looked like a cook. Without any warning the audacious robber rushed at her, relieved her of a silver wire purse containing some small money and a handkerchief, and threw her down the hillside. By the time she had regained the road and recovered from the surprise the thief had gone, she believed in the direction of the city. The lady also feels sure that she can identify the highwayman, and gives a description of him which will be seen from an advertisement in another column.

GREAT CHINESE FETE AT HONGKONG.

DATE FIXED.

The fête organized by leading members of the Chinese community is to take place. The promoters have obtained the sanction and countenance of the Government. Processions will take place on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of December, with fish lanterns and all the usual gorgeous paraphernalia of a first-class Chinese spectacle. The news is now spreading in the neighbouring province of China, and the city that week is bound to be thronged with people. The shopkeepers are all pleased. We hope it may serve as a recovering point for our local trade depression.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the *Hongkong Daily Press*.]

(Continued from last week.)

VI.

It was not to be expected from a Chinese government that having gained, as it thought at the time, so signal a victory over the encroaching British Merchant, it would be content to rest in its course of interference with the private affairs of the merchants; their personal submission for the future must be absolute, and they must refrain from any attempt at remonstrance. The Chinese went further, and commenced an intrigue to induce the British residents to question the powers of the superintendents over their nationals. Above all they were more determined than ever to rivet on them their dependence on the hong merchants in all their dealings with the authorities. Still none, be they Officials or Merchants, could afford to take the last step of putting a stop to the trade from which both derived their living, though both were equally eager to exploit it to their own individual profit, and the natural result of all these combined causes was a complete chaos, in which everyman's hand was against his neighbour. Under the circumstances Mr. Davis prudently determined to resign his unprofitable office, and was succeeded by Sir George Robinson, who as an old officer, and thoroughly imbued with the doctrines of the Company, hated the very mention of free trade; and was ready to submit to all the dictates of the officials did that only rescue him from the still more galling tyranny of the Free-traders.

It was under these circumstances that the Opium trade came to be a burning question, never again apparently to die out. The chief promoters of the traffic were the Canton officials, in whose hands it had become a practical monopoly. Nominally forbidden by the laws of China, it was carefully nursed by the Canton authorities, who were thereby enabled to meet the growing demands of the Court at Peking, and who, while in their public utterances fulminating anathemas against the iniquities of the trade, were, more sinesi, its main supporters; and had skillfully contrived to concentrate almost the entire at Canton. In much the same manner it was never directly acknowledged by the Company, yet was persistently connived at and permitted to be carried on by private Indian subjects in so-called "country ships," manned by British officers. At one time these ships, fast sailing and well-armed clippers, traded along the coast, but latterly their operations had become mainly confined to Canton. They were not, however admitted to the privileges of the port, but were anchored just outside under lee of the island of Lintin, where they formed a community of their own, little troubled by or troubling the Company's Supracargoes at the provincial Capital.

Nothing is known of the commencement of the Opium trade with China; it seems to have been already flourishing when the Arab traders were settled in Canton in the 9th century, and was certainly in full swing when the East India Company first commenced its operations in China, when regular duties were charged. In 1796, consequent on the bungle made of Lord Macartney's embassy, and the attempt to put foreign trade in leading strings, we hear for the first time of any attempt to exclude opium. As the subject was never mentioned in the course of the conversations with Lord Macartney during his embassy we are justified in the conclusion that it was an afterthought. Lord Macartney had sought to have the northern ports, especially Tinghai in the Chusans opened to trade, but had been defeated by the machinations of Canton. Now the one foreign article that had been accepted at all these ports without question was opium; when, therefore, Canton had won its great victory of monopolising the entire of the foreign trade, it was plainly an additional safeguard against trade with those ports that opium should be specially rendered "illegal." That is to say that it had no legal protection and might be treated according to discretion. As regards the northern ports the Cantonese officials were always able to quote the illegality of the trade; as regarded themselves

it is acknowledged on all sides, native as well as foreign, that the traffic received in consideration of special payments, not only immunity but special protection.

The effect of this protection was to increase enormously the import, the drug being delivered by the Viceroy's own craft at the various ports, and the amount which in the previous half century had seldom exceeded 200 chests, last month rapidly rose to more than ten times that amount. To the British merchants on the spot especially after the opening of the trade, the improved demand came as a stimulant to the export trade, as it supplied the necessary funds on the spot to enable them to pay for their teas and silks. To the Chinese the enormous development of the trade seemed dangerous, as it actually turned the "balance of trade" against China, and tales of the impoverishment of China through the export of Syces were current from all quarters.

It is noteworthy as indicating the artificial nature of the outcry, that the moral objection to the trade in all these complaints occupies but an infinitely small space, the issue dwelt on in all the memorials being that China was being impoverished by the export of silver. There were two well defined parties of economists on the subject; the one headstrong and impulsive was for driving out the foreigner altogether and his trade. The more cautious, in view largely of the impossibility of preventing a smuggling trade springing up if the Government proceeded to extreme measures, was for legalising the traffic under a regular tariff. The Emperor sought the advice of his chief provincial officers. As often happens in such cases, the most extreme and virulent of these replies was accepted; and its author, Lin Tsesu, viceroy of the Hukwang, who from his position in the heart of the empire was the least qualified from experience to judge, was ordered up to Peking, and thence sent as Imperial Commissioner with full powers to inaugurate the new departure.

Whether Lin was prepared for being thus at his word does not now appear; at all events there was no possibility of withdrawing from the situation that he had made for himself, and his only possible course was to rush blindly forward without thought of possible consequences. Unfortunately he found at Canton as British Superintendent a man as much a child in knowledge and experience as himself, and equally obstinate and overbearing, Capt. Charles Elliott of Her Majesty's Navy, and between the two, affairs soon got into such a tangle, that the most superficial observer could see that the only hope of disentangling lay in a recourse to arms. Many things had, however, to happen first, and the flag to submit to still more unworthy insults.

The attempts of Captain Elliot when he took upon himself the duties of Chief Superintendent to carry out the instructions of Lord Napier were scarcely less unfortunate; and finding, as he afterwards declared, that the Viceroy had declined to accede to the condition of the instructions from H. M. Government as to the manner of his intercourse, he struck the British flag at the Factories at Canton, and retired to Macao in December 1837.

During the next year in pursuance of the newly awakened zeal against opium, several Chinese were ostentatiously strangled in front of the Factories, and a remonstrance resulted in a moral lecture from the viceroy, nevertheless, remarking that Foreigners too had human hearts, the practice was for a time remitted: only for a time; for towards the end of the next year preparations were made for strangling a culprit under the American flag-staff, which resulted in the U. S. Consul hauling down his flag; and the foreigners generally interfering to prevent the insult, a dangerous riot took place. Captain Elliott who was at the time on board ship at Whampoa, on hearing of the disturbance, came up to protect the Factory with a hundred and twenty armed men. A few days after he issued an order that all British vessels trading in opium within the Hogue should remove, and not return; and that in case any Chinese should be killed in consequence of persistence in the trade, he would in case of the seizure by the Chinese of the delinquent take no steps for his protection; even if awarded capital punishment as a penalty. Captain Elliott was from long conviction a hater of the opium trade,

and his dislike often carried him beyond the bounds of discretion; indeed a mistake as to the intention of his powers of control over British subjects occasioned a breach between him and the mercantile body, and led to severe recriminations from Lord Palmerston, who was now convinced of the impossibility of any longer submitting to the childish insults of the Canton mandarins.

Like other weak administrators sent out at various times to represent British interests in China, Capt. Elliott, despairing of being able to move the obstinate Chinese, whom he had no force to compel, consoled himself by turning his supposed powers under the Orders in Council against his own nationals. To prevent a recurrence of these misunderstandings, Lord Palmerston emphasized in his instructions the fact, that however suitable it might have been for the officers of a trading corporation, such as had been in China the old Company to submit to being treated as inferiors, it was essentially necessary to keep in mind that the superintendents, as representing the Sovereign, could only properly communicate, and on equal terms, with the direct officers of the Chinese Government. Unfortunately Lord Palmerston, knowing how adverse the nation was from any scheme that might be construed into an act of aggression, and having little confidence in Elliott's discretion, avoided giving him the only practical means of dealing with a weak bombastic nation, as was China at that time.

[To be continued.]

THE MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

The President and members of the Ministering Children's League are especially obliged to Mrs. Carter (M.C.L. Secretary for the Peak), Mrs. Peter (Secretary for Victoria), Mrs. Longridge (Kowloon Secretary), the Misses Loureiro, Mrs. Tuxford and Mrs. Robson who kindly provided their own stalls; to Mrs. George Hastings, Mrs. D'Esterre, and the other ladies who gave such efficient and ready help at the other stalls; and to the following firms and others who rendered generous and valuable assistance to the Bazaar. Messrs. Kelly & Walsh; A. S. Watson & Co.; W. Powell & Co.; Weismann & Co.; and Madame Flint gratuitously supplied various articles. Messrs. Lane Crawford & Co. lent the piano; the Electric Light Company was an appreciated donor; the four newspapers made special concessions; Major Chapman and the Officers, Hongkong Volunteers, lent the ground and hall; the Hongkong A.D.C. lent materials, Mr. Tatcher supplied plants and palms; and Mr. Tooker and Mr. Wolfe of the Public Works Department supervised the arranging of the ground.

Thanks are also due to Mrs. Somerset Playne, who arranged the musical tableaux which brought in a substantial sum; to Mr. H. W. Bird, who kindly arranged the scenery; and to Miss Gill for having organized such a successful children's entertainment.

The net results are \$1,300 which will be divided amongst the following charities:—

The Hildesheim Mission Blind School.	\$400.00
Victoria Home & Orphanage, Kowloon.	400.00
Miss Johnstone's Baxter Mission Schools.	100.00
Diocesan Girl's School.	100.00
French Convent.	100.00
Italian Convent.	100.00
(Further donation to Italian Convent towards rebuilding their babies' quarters which have been condemned)	100.00
	\$1,300.00

During the Cricket week there will be another performance of the tableaux vivants.

Memorials of re-entry by the Government of Lanchow Island, Demarcation District 311, Lot No. 481; Demarcation District 313, Lot No. 62; Demarcation District 317, Lot No. 3-8; Demarcation District 318, Lot Nos. 111, 1790; Demarcation District 323, Lot No. 77; Demarcation District 333, Lot No. 439; and Tung Chung, Demarcation District I, Lot Nos. 1560, 2851, 2856; Demarcation District V, Lot No. 326, have been registered according to law.

CHINESE CONFIDENCE TRICKS.

The confidence trick, adapted to the peculiarities of the Chinese mind, and smartly adjusted to the circumstances of the occasion, is frequently practised with success in Shanghai. Last week an old woman was so impressed with the appearance of a brass ring, which two rascals dropped in the street before her, that she parted with a pair of gold earrings valued at \$14, in order to overcome the pretended intention of the two men to report the matter to the police. Two natives dropped a purse containing a few coins of little value on to the footpath in front of a Chinese, who was just returning with the value in dollar notes of a cheque for Tls. 150, which he had been sent to cash at the Chartered Bank by one of the insurance companies. The two confederates appeared as the shroff picked up the purse, and hurrying to him they claimed a division of the proceeds. He attempted to pass on and in the scuffle which followed the parcel of notes changed hands. The shroff made an outcry, and a parcel, which he thought was his own, was handed back to him: the two rascals then ran away. The shroff, pluming himself upon the retention of the purse and the recovery of the notes, returned to the insurance office where he found that a parcel containing some old paper, but outwardly identical with his own, had been substituted. The rogues got away.

PREDACEANS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

Alone on the hills in the New Territory, and unarmed, it is not a pleasant experience to encounter the "cheetah," a species of leopard. Although the animal is not so ferocious as the tiger, still it is a beast of prey, and when two followed Mr. Ilett, chief timekeeper on the Kowloon Canton Railway, last week, he began to feel very uncomfortable. Mr. Ilett was crossing from the works at Shatin to the south face of the tunnel on a China pony, and was ascending the hill which looks down on the works at Kowloon when he saw two "cheetahs" some distance above him, and to the left of his track. He also observed that the animals made their way to the rear, and what was more, that they were following him. Several times, while proceeding on his way, he stopped and turned round, each time to see the "cheetahs" stop too. All the way up the precipitous track they were his unwelcome attendants, and as he turned on descending the hill track which leads to the south face railway works, the horseman saw the two animals crowning the hill. Here, however, they found they were near the haunts of man, gave up the pursuit, and Mr. Ilett reached his destination safely.

AN OVERDUE STEAMER.

No little anxiety was felt in shipping circles regarding the fate of the steamer "Taiwan" which was overdue at Saigon from this port. She left Hongkong on the 25th October with over 500 Chinese passengers on board and should have reached the southern port some days ago. Her owners, the Wing Fat applied to Admiral Moore to send a warship to look for her and H.M.S. "Astrea" was despatched. A steamer arrived in port from Saigon reported having seen the "Taiwan" in the typhoon when she was making heavy weather of it.

The owners of the steamer Taiwan, the Wing Fat, on Nov. 6th received information from Saigon that the vessel had arrived safely at that port. Stress of weather was the cause of the delay, and the captain was forced to seek a safe anchorage in which to ride out the typhoon.

H.M.S. Astrea left at noon on the 5th, in search of the missing vessel, but when the owners received tidings of her safe arrival at Saigon they immediately informed the Naval Authorities, and the warship was recalled by wireless telegraphy. It got the message, and re-entered harbour last night.

WATER RETURN.

Level and storage of water in reservoirs on the 1st October:—

	LEVEL.	1906.	1907.
		Above overflow.	Above overflow.
Tytam	1 ft. 8 in.	2 ft. 6½ in.	
Byewash	2 ft. 2½ in.	2 ft. 3 in.	
Tytam Low Level		0 ft. 1 in.	
Pokfulam	1 ft. 11 in.	1 ft. 9 in.	
Wongnaicheong.	0 ft. 11 in.	2 ft. 0 in.	
	STORAGE GALLONS:	1906.	1907.
Tytam	399,320,000	407,000,000	
Byewash	25,842,000	25,908,000	
Tytam Low Level		196,389,000	
Pokfulam	70,220,000	69,860,000	
Wongnaicheong.	31,678,000	33,260,000	
Total	527,060,000	732,417,000	

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1906.	1907.
Consumption	119,218,000	145,722,000 gallons
Estimated population	334,900	205,560
Consumption per head per day	16.9	23.6 gallons

Rider Main in operation up to 19th and constant supply during the remainder of the month of September 1906. Constant supply during the whole of the month of September 1907. The return of Consumption is subject to error owing to the difficulty of accurate measurement whilst the extension works at Albany Filter Beds are in progress.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1906.	1907.
Kowloon New Reservoir		112,000,000
Consumption	14,844,000	23,611,000 gallons
Estimated population	81,100	79,700
Consumption per head per day	6.1	9.0 gallons

The return of Consumption is not very reliable as various works were in progress in connection with the distribution system and the fixing of fire Hydrants.

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

Returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st October, 1907, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are as under:—

BANKS.	AVERAGE SPECIE AMOUNT. IN RESERVE.	\$	\$
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China...	3,988,168	2,900,000	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation,	13,874,732	10,000,000	
National Bank of China, Limited, ...	300,185	150,000	
Total, ...	\$18,163,085	13,050,000	

While travelling through the Iwate Prefecture of Japan recently, an agricultural student learned from an intelligent farmer that in his section of the country, a man may be said to be well-to-do who owns land to the extent of nearly five acres and tills it himself. He can do this only when his family consists of ten healthy members. If less, he must hire outsiders to help him. Such a plot of land in a good year may yield £60 worth of produce. Out of this amount, he has to defray for expenses, £8 for manure, £10 for taxes of all kinds, national, prefectural, etc. This would leave £42 to be spent for sundry purposes throughout the year. Now the farmer and his family will probably consume £30 worth of produce during the year for food, leaving only £12 for all other expenses. Yet this man is a well-to-do farmer. Not more than one in ten belongs to his class. It is easy, therefore, to imagine the farmer's plight in a bad year.

COMMERCIAL.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, November 8th.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$890	to —	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$940	to —	do.
Malwa Older	\$980	to —	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1030	to —	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$750	to —	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$795	to —	do.
Patna New	\$900	to —	per chest.
Patna Old	\$907½	to —	do.
Benares New	\$870	to —	do.
Benares Old	\$—	to —	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 31st October, 1907, has the following:—The depressed state of our market has not been improved during the interval by the news of the financial troubles in New York. The drain of gold from the London market that has been the consequence has naturally depreciated silver, and exchange here has suffered another fall. With the further widening of the margin between the ideas of sellers and buyers in this way business has become more impossible than ever, as holders continue to hope against hope and defer facing the inevitable losses that are staring them in the face. In the meanwhile the country markets do not get a chance of responding to the situation here as many of the second hand holders, who had been astute enough to settle exchange on the higher basis, can supply the requirements for consumption eight to ten per cent. under what others can do it at. In this way what demand there is is readily satisfied without raising prices to any adequate extent, the only consolation to first hand holders being the counteracting effect of the lower exchange on the easier terms at which goods are now obtainable in the producing centres. This must curtail supplies to a certain extent, and that is the one thing now necessary to put the trade on a proper basis again. The pessimistic ideas of the United States, as regards the future of their export trade in this part of the world are not justified. Trade out here has certainly not developed so rapidly as was expected it would do, and besides it has to withstand some very severe opposition, and that on lines which defied competition, during the last twelve months. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, therefore, the rate at which goods have gone into actual consumption during the past ten months cannot be considered altogether unsatisfactory. There is one thing certain, and that is the native dealers here, perhaps encouraged by importers to some extent, have during the last few years been altogether too optimistic, and held stocks for profits that were not warranted, if they wished to keep the trade going, quite forgetting the principle that prompt sales and quick returns pay best in the long run, and would have, to a great extent, stifled the competition that has been encouraged by the high prices consumers in the country had to pay. With the increased cost of living it was not possible to continue paying such prices, and cheaper substitutes were readily welcomed. To carry on a satisfactory and successful trade out here in future Manchester and the United States must try to work more in harmony. The latter have succeeded in capturing the markets for heavy goods, almost as much through the efforts of traders belonging to other nationalities as to her own, however; but the absurd idea of buying to cut Manchester out of this trade altogether, must appeal now to those, who at one time held such views, as a very unprofitable task. And yet all her commercial publications are full of articles urging manufacturers to all sorts of other branches, already kept more than fully supplied by Manchester and with very poor results to those who have the final handling of them. Since the date of our last report the course of the Liverpool cotton market has been watched with some consternation by importers here. No doubt the weakness in New York, engendered by the financial troubles there, accounts for the decline that has taken place in Mid American, the lowest point touched being on the 29th inst., when spot was quoted 5.81d. and "futures" 5.61d. To-day a slight recovery is advised to 5.87d. owing to the better feeling in New York, where quotations had dropped to 10 cents for December and 10.25 cents for March. The Manchester and New York markets are both lower for cotton goods, which of course the drop in exchange counteracts to some extent and no one here has the courage to buy. Egyptian Cotton is down an eighth to 10-16d. Trade with the Yangtze Ports is not very brisk, floods on account of the heavy rains

are prevalent and in some parts the Rice crops are endangered, and yet the permission to export large quantities to Japan still holds good. The water in the Yangtze is unusually high for the time of the year, making navigation very difficult and delaying shipments to Szechuen. The Northern markets are not showing much life.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, October 31st, 1907.—The market is exceedingly quiet in all its branches, the lateness of the crops, which are not more than one-quarter harvested throughout most of the principal parts of the Yangtze valley, being responsible in large part for the backwardness of any usual autumn demand from many quarters. The water in the upper Yangtze is reported to be very high for this season and has hindered clearances for some of the interior points, while continuous rain has also deterred clearances for the nearer points, so the week's business has been of a very dull character. The Northern markets continue to be very lifeless, Tientsin doing nothing, while Newchwang confines itself to a trifling business in Dyed and Fancy Goods and a small trade in American Sheetings, buying only as it can sell for cash, this latter market having had a sufficiently drastic lesson upon the effects of overtrading to warrant its present strictly conservative business; it would, however, appear that it will have to subsist on very light stocks throughout the winter in consequence, which is a good augury for improved conditions in the spring. Home prices are easier owing to the lower price of cotton, which has presumably slumped owing to the weight of the new crop now beginning to be marketed, and the disability of the banks enabling it to be held by reason of the present financial crisis in America. Grey Shirtings.—Stockholders have been endeavouring during the week to force an advance in prices to compensate for the loss in exchange but without much success so far. This has naturally hindered business a good deal and very few lots have changed hands. Prices at auction were rather on the easy side. T. Cloths.—We have not heard of any business in these. Auctions steady. Jeans.—A small business has been done in Nine "Sing." Auctions improved a few candareens. White Shirtings.—The market continues exceedingly quiet and only two small sales have been made public. Drills and Sheetings.—We have heard of no business in the former beyond a sale of Massachusetts Flying Horse at Tls. 4.15. In Sheetings a sale of native made goods under Blue Two Stags at Tls. 3.35 is reported, and American Sheetings have been resold to Newchwang on a very fair scale at an advance of about 2½ to 5 candareens over last prices. Cotton Flannels.—The market is nominally at about the same level as last week but little or no business seems to have been done. Dyed and Fancy Cottons.—A sale of 300 pieces Dyed Cords, Woman Chop, at Tls. 0.32 per yd. is all that we have heard of. The market for all classes of goods under this head is very quiet and the volume of resales to the River Ports seems to have fallen off probably on account of the high water. Fast Black Cotton Lastings were on the whole inclined to be weaker at auctions though several chops realized better figures than last week. Worsteds and Woollens.—Nothing has been reported during the interval. At auctions Lastings were firmer, but other Woollens were, if anything, easier. Cotton.—Demand for the local staple has been of an insignificant character during the week and prices have been steadily off.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular dated Shanghai, 17th October, 1907, states:—Gallnuts.—The market is quiet, some few parcels have been sold at good prices. Cowhides.—Chinese are coming forward with offers for the coming season without attracting buyers. Tobacco.—A good business should be done next month as the quality is giving satisfaction and prices are below those of last season. Feathers.—A small business has been done. Prices have not advanced in spite of the low rate of exchange and in consequence buyers contracted at much reduced sterling figures. Cotton.—There was a very strong demand from home buyers and Japan. Prices have advanced slightly. Tallow.—A active business has been done. Strawbraid.—Demand from America has been fairly brisk on 7-ends Split and Shansi Mottled, but has slackened up during last two or three days. Splits continue to arrive, but Shansi Mottled stocks are exhausted. No demand at all from Europe. Wool.—Sheeps.—Little cargo coming forward. The tendency is rather bearish. Wood oil.—Market strong, prices firm. Antimony.—Market unchanged.

Per P. & O. steamer *Borneo*, sailed on 7th November, 1907. For Antwerp:—300 bales hemp, 25 bales partridge canes, 14 bales straw braid. For London opt. Cont:—100 cases ginger, 175 pkgs. ginger. For Gibraltar:—14 cases cigars, 1 case silk piece goods. For Marseilles:—6 cases hats, 150 cases camphor, 100 bales waste silk. For Rotterdam:—350 bales hemp. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—3 cases cigars, 30 cases preserves, 1,000 bales hemp, 6 pkgs. rattan chairs, 17 cases laichees, 56 bales merchandise, 21 cases woodware, 1624 pkgs. tea, 4 cases empty flasks, 19 cases chinaware, and 50 bales waste silk.

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS.

The *Amoy Gazette and Shipping Report*, dated 7th Nov. 1907, has the following list of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Custom House.

IMPORTS.

Goods.	QUANTITY.
Cotton Raw, Indian	pls. —
" " Native	" 774
" " Yarn	" 2,268
Shirtings, Grey	pcs. 2,230
T-Cloths	" 1,890
Shirtings, White	" 2,211
T. Red Shirtings	" 536
Drills	" 30
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades	" 410
" Dyed	" 294
Damasks	" —
Camlets	" 231
Lastings	" 30
Spanish Stripes	yds. 2,307
Lustres, Figured	" —
Lead in Pigs	pls. 36
Tin in Slabs	" 270
Iron, Nail Rod	" 53
Quicksilver	" 15
Iron, Old	" 36
Ironwire	" 17
Rice	" 18,434
Opium, Patna	" 1
" Benares	" 49
" Persian	" 9
" Malwa	" 2
" Szechuen	" 73
" Yunnan	" 28
" Kiangsu	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 163
Sapanwood	" 32
Sandalwood	" —
Rattans	" —
Wheat	" 3,696
Flour	" 5,049
Beancake	" 2,093
Beans and Peas	" 19,327
Bicho de Mer	" 386
Mats, Tea	pcs. —
Oil, Kerosene American	gals. —
" " Borneo in bulk	" 36,080
" " Russian	" —
" " Sumatra	" —
" " Bulk	" 15,835
Coal	tons. 1,221
Tobacco Leaf	pls. 1,179
Vernicelli	" 241

EXPORTS.

Sugar, White	pls. 200
" Brown	" 484
" Candy	" 1,695
Hemp Bags	pcs. —
" Sacking	" 17,500
Paper I Quality	pls. 280
" II	" 104
Tobacco, Prepared	" 34
Kittysols (umbrellas)	pcs. —

SHARE REPORTS.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 31st October, 1907, states:—The week under review included the October Settlement Day yesterday, but this was only of the most meagre description, and is scarcely worth notice. Business has been fairly quiet and we have to chronicle an advance in Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Shares, as also in Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A transaction in New Banks is reported at \$660. We quote \$665 and \$660 for Old and New respectively at closing. The T. T. on London to-day is 2/8½. Insurance.—North-China Insurance Co. Since the dividend the price has advanced substantially, and we quote the rate at closing as Tls. 75 ex div. Yangtze Insurance. We quote at \$165 without business. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas remain nominally at Tls. 30 for the Preference and Tls. 20 for the Deferred. Shanghai Tug & Lighter

Co. After having sellers all the week at Tls. 45 business was reported yesterday at Tls. 43½ for the Ordinary shares, and Preference shares remain nominally at Tls. 50. Docks and Wharves.—The cash rate is Tls. 73½ nominal. Business for December has been done in small quantities at Tls. 75 and Tls. 75½. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. The market opened with sales of cash shares at Tls. 195, and December at Tls. 199. On the 25th cash shares were placed at Tls. 193, subsequently closing firm at Tls. 196. The next rate paid for cash was Tls. 200 and at closing there are buyers at this figure. For December rates have advanced in sympathy from Tls. 200 to Tls. 205, closing firm with buyers. Sugar Cos.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been dealt in at Tls. 100 and close firm. No other business reported. Industrial.—Cotton Stocks. No business reported this week. China Flour Mills. There are buyers at Tls. 51. Green Island Cement Co. Shares have advanced to \$12. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. The market opened with sales for October at Tls. 312½. On the 27th the rate advanced to Tls. 315 October and Tls. 322½ December. Shares being wanted for the Settlement carried the cash rate to Tls. 320, but at closing sellers prevail. For Dec. shares have been placed at Tls. 325. Shanghai Sumatras have declined so Tls. 110. Kalumpung Rubber Shares. The market has dropped to Tls. 50, at which rate there are buyers. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz Shares have been placed at \$21½. Central Stores. Ordinary shares have been dealt in at \$14. S. Moutrie & Co. There are buyers at \$39. Astor House Hotel Co. Shares have declined to \$21. Hotel des Colonies have been placed at Tls. 13½. Shanghai Horse Bazaars. There are sellers at Tls. 36. Shanghai Mutual Telephone Co. have changed hands at Tls. 55. China Import & Export Lumber have been placed at Tls. 90. Loans and Debentures.—A lot of Shanghai Land 1905 Debentures at 6 per cent. have been dealt in at Tls. 97½.

HONGKONG, 8th November, 1907.—There has been more activity in our market during the past week, and a variety of stocks have been dealt in almost wholly for investment purposes. Rates in some cases show a further improvement, and close steady with an advancing tendency. Exchange on London closes at 2½ T. T. and on Shanghai at 74. The Bank of England rate of discount has been raised to 7 per cent., and Barsilver is quoted in London at 27½d. per ounce.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai (old) have been the medium of further business at \$660 at which the market closes steady. The new issue is procurable at 655, offers of a lower rate however, meeting with no response from holders. London quotes £75 and £73 for the old and new issues respectively.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue steady at \$780, and China Traders at \$90, the latter with buyers. North Chinas have improved to Tls. 74 with buyers after a sale at Tls. 73½. Yangtzes are weaker in the north with sellers at \$165, which rate we follow in the absence of local business. Cantons are quiet at \$270.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have advanced to \$310 at which sales have been effected, and there are further buyers. Chinas have been booked at \$37, and close in request.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been freely dealt in at \$29½, \$29½, \$29½, \$30, and \$30½, market closing with some sellers at the latter rate. Other stocks in this section have not attracted attention during the interval, and quotations are without change.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are weak with sellers at \$103. Luzons are unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Raubs have been booked at \$9½, but close somewhat easier with reported sellers at \$9. Charbonnages are still in request at \$470.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after sales at \$103 and \$102, have weakened and are procurable to some extent at \$100. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are unchanged with probable sellers at \$67, and New Amoy Docks at \$11 with sellers. Shanghai Docks are firm at Tls. 74, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves at the improved rate of Tls. 207½, the latter with buyers in the North.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Humphrey's Estates have been booked at \$10½, and more shares are procurable. Hongkong Lands con-

tinues on offer at \$96, and Kowloon Lands at \$36. Hongkong Hotels are still in request at \$100.

COTTON MILLS.—Quotations are unchanged, and there is no business to report in this section.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China-Borneos have improved to \$10½ with sales and buyers. China Providents have been booked at \$9½ closing with probable sellers at the rate. Green Island Cements are steady at the closing rate of \$11½ after sales at that rate and \$11½. Union Water Boats are on offer at the reduced rate of \$11. Watkins and Powells can be placed at quotations.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	{ \$125 \$125 }	{ \$660 \$655 Ln. £75 Ln. £73 }
National B. of China	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$6½
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10½, sales
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	\$6, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$10	\$10½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 52
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 280
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16.75, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$67
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$100 sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$11, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 74
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 207½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$16, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11½
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$17½, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$14½
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25½
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$250
China Fire	\$20	\$87, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, buyers
North China	£5	Tls. 74, buyers
Union	\$100	\$780
Yangtze	\$60	\$165
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$96 sellers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$10½, sales & sel.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$36, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 101
West Point Building	\$50	\$48
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$470, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$9 sellers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 \$1 }	{ \$12, buyers \$2, (new) buy. }
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$104, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies.		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$37½
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$30½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	{ \$41, Prefd., sel. \$29, Defd., sellers }
Shell Transport Co.	£1	\$43½, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$11, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5½ buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$11, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10
Do. Founders	\$0	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, November 11th.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	2/0½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	254
Credits 4 months' sight	261
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	207½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	19½
Credits, 60 days' sight	50½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	151
Bank, on demand	151½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	151
Bank on demand	151½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	98½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	99
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	15 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	121½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	73½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$ 9.75
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$50.80
BAR SILVER, per oz	26½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$4.38 discount
"	10 " "	5.10 "
Hongkong	20 " "	4.00 "
"	10 " "	4.85 "

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st November.—There has been little demand for tonnage during the past fortnight, and rates are slightly lower all round. From Saigon to this, 6 cents per picul; to Philippines, 20 cents per picul last; to North Coast Java, several cargoes booked at from 18/21 cents per picul and more steamers could be placed. From North Coast Java to Hongkong and Japan, no demand. From Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul last; to Amoy, a small carrier was placed at 23 cents. Coal freights are weak. From South Japan Coal port to this, \$1.45 per ton; to Canton, \$2.20; to Singapore, \$1.70. From Hongkong to Hongkong, no demand. Time charter. The Landrat Scheiff has been closed to run between Japan and Shanghai. The following are the settlements:—

Pronto—Norwegian steamer, 137 tons, Haiphong to Canton, \$1.75 per ton.

Amoy—German steamer, 732 tons, Newchwang and Tientsin to Amoy, 23/28 cents per picul.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 1,180 tons, Saigon to 1 port North Coast Java, 19 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 8 cents per picul.

Landrat Scheiff—German steamer, 1,012 tons, monthly, 2/1 month, at \$5,500 per month.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez)—Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, October 24th, 1907. There is no change to report in our Homeward Freight market since last writing and cargo is getting scarcer every week, although the wool and hides season just coming on should improve matters somewhat. Coastwise.—Rates have continued to improve since last writing and there is a fair demand for tonnage coastwise in the North and from Japan so that we expect to see rates fairly firm at any rate until the Northern Ports close for the winter.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

November—

ARRIVALS.

1. Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 1. Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 1. Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 1. Eastern, British str., from Australia.
 1. Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
 1. Johanne, German str., from Hoihow.
 1. Oanfa, British str., from Manila.
 1. Ovid, British str., from New York.
 1. Pakhoi, British str., from Swatow.
 1. Shantung, British str., from Probolinggo.
 1. Standard, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 1. Taming, British str., from Manila.
 2. Canton, Swedish str., from Antwerp.
 2. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 2. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 2. Kashima Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 2. Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 2. Shinshu Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 2. Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 2. Teucer, British str., from Nagasaki.
 2. Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 3. Chunsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 3. Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
 3. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 3. Pakling, British str., from Shanghai.
 3. Shinano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 4. Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 4. Hue, French str., from K. C. Wan.
 4. Ischia, Italian str., from Bombay.
 4. Kueichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 4. Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 4. Macduff, British str., from Moji.
 4. Namsang, British str., from Singapore.
 4. Solstad, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
 4. Szechuen, British str., from Newchwang.
 4. Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
 4. Tientsin, British str., from Wuhu.
 5. Bandai Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
 5. Benledi, British str., from Singapore.
 5. Indrani, British str., from New York.
 5. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 5. Princess Alice, Ger. str., from Bremen.
 5. Roon, German str., from Yokohama.
 5. Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 5. Siberia, Am. str., from San Francisco.
 5. Suisang, British str., from Hongay.
 5. Wengko, German str., from Bangkok.
 5. Yiksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 6. Borneo, British str., from Yokohama.
 6. Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
 6. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 6. Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 6. Dewawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 6. Haimuo, British str., from Coast Ports.
 6. P. Waldemar, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 6. Silesia, German str., from Hamburg.
 6. Syria, British str., from Singapore.
 7. Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
 7. Henrik Ibsen, Nor. str., from Kuchinotzu.
 7. Nichibei Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
 7. Nord, British str., from Singapore.
 7. Progress, German str., from Amoy.
 7. Tsurugisan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinotzu.
- November— DEPARTURES.
1. Devanha, British str., for Shanghai.
 1. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 1. Korea, American str., for San Francisco.
 1. Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 1. Pronto, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 1. Shoshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 1. Signal, German str., for Haiphong.
 1. Tamba Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 1. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 2. Aratoon Apour, Brit. str., for Singapore.
 2. Chingtu, British str., for Manila.
 2. Delhi, British str., for Europe, &c.
 2. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 2. Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
 2. Idomeneus, British str., for Saigon.
 2. Kanagawa Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 2. Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 2. Ovid, British str., for Dalny.
 2. Palermo, British str., for Yokohama.
 2. Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 2. Zetso, British str., for Manila.
 3. Beswada, British str., for Singapore.
 3. Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 3. Canton, Swedish str., for Shanghai.
 3. Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Anping.
 3. Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 3. Hupeh, British str., for Haiphong.
 3. Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 3. Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 3. Lyndhurst, British ship, for New York.

3. Oanfa, British str., for Kobe and Tacoma.
3. Taintan, German str., for Swatow.
3. Vancouver, British str., for Newcastle.
4. Eastern, British str., for Kobe.
4. Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
4. Heliopolis, British str., for Durban.
4. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
4. Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Drufar, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
5. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
5. Johanne, German str., for Hoihow.
5. Pakhoi, British str., for Ningpo.
5. Pakling, British str., for Singapore.
5. Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
5. Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
6. Bandai Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
6. Benledi, British str., for Nagasaki.
6. Ellen Rickmers, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
6. Indrani, British str., for Manila.
6. Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
6. Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
6. Monteagle, British str., for Vancouver.
6. Pitsanulok, German str., for Swatow.
6. Prinz ss Alice, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
6. Roon, German str., for Europe, &c.
6. Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
6. Taming, British str., for Manila.
7. Borneo, British str., for Singapore.
7. Cheongshing, British str., for Tientsin.
7. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
7. Hua, French str., for Kwang Chow Wan.
7. J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
7. Kwangse, British str., for Chinkiang.
7. Mortlake, British str., for Muroran.
7. Prinz Waldemar, German str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Smith, Miss Hopun, Messrs. Cobly and Macray.
- Per *Borneo*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. N. K. Davidson; for Marseilles, Mr. E. King; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Leake, 4 children, infant and amah, Miss Croker, and A. Sales; from Yokohama, for London, Misses Todd and H. Todd.
- Per *Eastern*, from Australia via Ports, for Hongkong, Capt. and Mrs. W. H. Roberts, Mrs. Grove, 2 children and maid, and Mr. Fred. Chong; for Shanghai, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Rogers, Rev. and Mrs. Goodchild and 2 children, Mrs. Craig, and Miss Liddell; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Davies, Mrs. R. L. Davies, and Miss C. Chubb.
- Per *Roon*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Dr. M. Silva, Messrs. A. Kuhn and Bjillaude; from Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. Grossmann, Miss Koch, and Mr. Willy Samuel; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham, Mrs. M. Lawrence, Miss E. Trüdinger, Miss Elvira Day, Dr. Albert, Messrs. H. Koch, Radbruch, E. D. v. Walree, Mende & L. Basto.
- Per *Syria*, from London, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. King, Mrs. Molson, Messrs. L. Gay, J. E. Pearce, H. Baker and R. N. Hatrick; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Falloon, Mrs. and Miss Rennie, Mrs. Phillippa, Mrs. Kill, Mrs. Arnold, Misses Knight, E. and W. Thomson, Messrs. P. Taylor, J. Fracey, J. Holland and G. S. Caldwell; for Kobe, Mr. D. R. Tannent; for Yokohama, Rev. and Mrs. Hayter, Mrs. Roche, Misses Mutter, E. Demaret and O. Fielding, and Mr. J. H. C. Goodban; from Singapore, for Shanghai, Mr. W. J. Kiu; for Yokohama, Capt. W. Flangan.
- Per *Princess Alice*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Dr. W. Grevel, Miss Toni Bass, Messrs. Carl Möller, F. W. Hentschel, H. Kausholz, J. Johannsen, H. Scharnberg and J. Falck; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. Hickling, Mr. and Mrs. C. Diss, Mr. and Mrs. Underwood, Messrs. W. Brown, H. Harron, P. Plage, Mellor, D. McLaren and J. Scottie Ross & family; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. J. Menes, Mr. and Mrs. Major Hatch, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kalisch, Mr. and Mrs. G. Krueger, Mr. and Mrs. Lehmann, Mrs. J. Ziegler, Mrs. Bliedermilch, Misses P. Grevel, L. Morgenroth, Clara Gries, Jorndt, Wollermann and party, L. Lohrs and B. Newcombe, Consul v. Varchnius, Dr. Herrmann, Messrs. C. Struckmann, v. de Heide, E. G. Kistenmacher, John Walehli, L. Raber, P. Knoblauch, P. Kastner, H. Dahne and H. Heisler; from Gibraltar, Mr. C. de la Serna; from Naples, J. Bremer; from Colombo, Mr. F. Mateuki; from Singapore, Mrs. Jones, Messrs. R. Lloyd, Carlos Fernandez, Schaeffer and K. Takayama.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Prof. and Mrs. D. E. Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Thwang, Mrs. F. C. Peters, Mrs. Ballmer, Dr. W. A. Mengram, Rev. Rollengrio, Rev. Oredille, Rev. Merino, Madame Pratege, Messrs. S. de Berov, C. A. McKenzie, A. C. Phillips, E. S. Hine, T. Wright, R. N. Sollman, D. B. Corlray, D. C. Berry, C. H. Knight, J. H. Thomson and S. E. Cortelgon.

Per *Siberia*, from San Francisco via Ports, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. N. Briggs and infant, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cairns, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Clements, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Cory, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Sleeper and servant, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Snow and son, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Towbridge and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Waganblass, Rev. and Mrs. Henry De Pree and infant, Rev. and Mrs. F. J. Snyder and child, Consul and Mrs. Barretto, Mrs. J. T. Hamilton, Mrs. S. A. Joseph, Mrs. J. H. Nicola, Mrs. Carson Taylor and child, Mrs. P. J. Twombly, Misses Katherine R. Green, E. T. Hicks, H. M. Kinney, G. Nicola, Sylvia Sleeper, Mabel F. Smith, R. H. Smither, M. Stolder and L. A. Wollard, Capt. Roy B. Harper, Lieut. John Holtman, Master Harold Sleeper, Messrs. H. L. Condon, C. E. Fleming, G. A. Goebel, F. A. Joseph, J. P. Richardson, Cecil Simpson, H. Thomas, Walter W. Wilson, R. D. Warberg, Carl Young and Earl Young.

DEPARTED.

Per *Monteagle*, from Hongkong, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Berliner, Mrs. Parrish, Mrs. Berry, Miss Ferguson, Dr. Cole, Capt. Elmsley, Messrs. E. C. Smith, C. E. McKee, Doolittle, W. T. Rupert, S. L. Corum, H. G. Topliss, P. D. Colbert, S. E. Cortelgon, E. E. McVicar and P. Blodhorn.

Per *Princess Alice*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. D. Wahl, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Pereira, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Rogers, Rev. and Mrs. Goodchild and 2 children, Lieut. and Mrs. Vogel de Lorm, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Voule, Misses A. Gonies and M. M. Leddell, Major W. A. T. Williamson, Revs. Mormo, Avedello, and Rodriguez, Messrs. H. A. T. Macray, F. Reiber, D. P. Cordray, R. H. Sillmann, A. T. MacGregor, W. Kien, Schumacher, Mende, Graham, L. Crawford, Schast, Inve and L. Zweger and family; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Y. Yamasaki, W. Mori, H. Suyenaga, S. Nase, K. Hayashi and H. Ito; for Kobe, Mrs. Sarto; for Yokohama, Mr. Roth.

Per *Korea*, from Hongkong, for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Paddock, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bourke, Mr. and Mrs. L. Roen and child, Mrs. M. A. Huntington, Mrs. F. H. Sargent, Mrs. E. Meiklejohn, Mrs. M. McPherson, Mrs. S. Davenport, Mrs. I. Frohman, Mrs. B. H. Smith, Mrs. J. S. Walker, Mrs. Irvine, Misses M. Brown, M. Wilcox, E. Wilcox, Meiklejohn, M. Huntington, A. Sargent, H. Sargent, M. Bourke and Sullivan, Capt. W. A. Burbank, Rev. F. Noval, Rev. M. Narro, Hon. C. S. Hyman, Hon. G. M. Wilcox, Master H. Bourke, Messrs. B. Hempel, L. Alai, P. Somerset, H. K. Arthur and M. C. Shroff.

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